

Gulf states may agree to summit

MANAMA (R) — Foreign ministers from Egypt, Syria and the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) may meet in July to discuss a proposed summit on a security pact signed in Damascus last year, a senior Gulf official said on Wednesday. The official said GCC states Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates were not against the summit proposal, which has mooted last week by the Syrian and Egyptian presidents Hafez Al Assad and Hosni Mubarak. "If there is a summit, the foreign ministers would have to meet first... we (GCC) have agreed on a July date. If it takes place, the summit would probably be in the autumn," he said. Foreign ministers from the eight states had been due to discuss the stalled Damascus pact, covering joint security arrangements and GCC economic aid, earlier this year. The meeting, last set for May, was postponed more than once. GCC Secretary-General Abdullah Bishara said last month the six states were still determined to implement the pact, aimed at giving Egypt and Syria a role in defence of the oil-rich area.

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Happy 'Eid Al Adha

On account of the 'Eid Al Adha holiday, the Jordan Times will not be published on Saturday, June 13, and Sunday, June 14. The next issue of the paper will appear on Monday, June 15. The Jordan Times wishes its readers and advertisers a very happy 'Eid.

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Iraq opens new oil pipeline

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said on Wednesday it had opened a new oil pipeline linking a pumping station in the southern town of Zubair with Fao and the Mina Al Bakr export terminal at the head of the Gulf. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said the 101-kilometre pipeline had a capacity of 1,017,000 barrels per day (bpd). INA quoted the director general of the Iraqi oil projects company, which constructed the pipeline, as saying the line would give the Southern Oil Company a large export capacity.

Turkey may reduce fees for pipeline

ANKARA (R) — Turkey, fearing it could lose business, may reduce the \$264 million fee it has been demanding from Iraq to reopen an oil pipeline, Anatolian news agency said on Wednesday. It said Turkey had invited Iraqi officials to Ankara to discuss resuming flow through the twin 986-kilometre long pipelines, running from the Kirkuk oil fields in northern Iraq to terminals on Turkey's Mediterranean coast. "It will be meaningless to keep these plants (in Turkey) idle. Iraq also restored the alternative terminals in Mina Al Bakr in the south. It may use it as a trump if a dialogue does not start," an oil official told the agency (See story on page 2).

Algiers frees 2,000 fundamentalists

ALGIERS (AP) — About 2,000 Muslim fundamentalists have been freed from detention camps in the desert in the past few days, the Interior Ministry announced Wednesday. The ministry said the latest releases bring to about 3,000 the number of detainees freed after being held without charge for three or four months. They were arrested following a Feb. 9 state-of-emergency decree. The ministry said 4,448 detainees remain in the camps, some of whom would be released soon. Others suspected of serious offences would remain in custody, but would move to northern areas from the desert camps in the south, where summertime heat can be extreme.

Britain assesses details of Libya-IRA links

LONDON (R) — Britain on Wednesday began assessing information supplied by Libya about links to Irish guerrillas but officials stressed this fell far short of full compliance with U.N.-backed Western demands. A British official said several pages of information provided by Libya's ambassador to Tunisia at a meeting in Geneva on Tuesday had arrived by fax at the Foreign Office. "We're looking at it," he said, adding that the process might take some time.

Hero defeats villain in Indian election

NEW DELHI (R) — A movie star candidate of Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's Congress Party defeated a screen villain rival on Tuesday in one of several Indian by-elections. Congress sources said Monday's votes in elect two parliamentary deputies and 19 state assembly members were a crucial test of Mr. Rao's popularity. Film star Rajesh Khanna won the prestigious New Delhi seat by over 28,000 votes. Mr. Khanna's nearest rival, screen villain Shatrughan Sinha of the Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party, blamed electoral violence for the Congress victory.

Sudan says rebel attack on Juba foiled

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan's military government said Wednesday it foiled a rebel attack on a strategic southern town. A government statement said it troops "annihilated" a force of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) that had entered the government-held regional capital Juba last Sunday. The statement described the rebel attack as "a desperate attempt... at creating a propaganda victory to make up for their failures and repeated setbacks on all fronts."

Over 2 million perform Haj

MOUNT ARAFAT (Agencies) — More than two million Muslim pilgrims chanted prayers and verses of the Koran on the desert slopes of this holy mountain near Mecca from daybreak on Wednesday at the climax of the annual Haj.

Dressed simply in white, seamless robes, pilgrims from around the world said their main concern was the heat, forecast at 45 degrees Celsius (113 F).

Only a few managed to climb the small hill known as Jabal Al Rahma (Mount of Forgiveness) where the Prophet Muhammad delivered his last sermon 14 centuries ago.

Official said 1,012,140 pilgrims had come from abroad this year to join more than one million from within Saudi Arabia at rites considerably eased by expanded and improved facilities under a \$5 billion Saudi government scheme.

As the Haj reached its high point, Saudi Arabia fended off verbal attacks from Iraq and Libya.

Charges that 10 Iraqi pilgrims had been manhandled to death by the Saudis were rejected by a government spokesman as "gibbering falsehoods" (see page 2). Libyan assertions that Riyadh blocked the Libyan pilgrims was slammed as "propaganda hubbub."

Except for "a small fire in an empty tent camp," extinguished within minutes" late Tuesday by the Saudi civil defence, officials say this year's Haj has been trouble-free compared to the political violence and tragic accidents that marred previous rituals.

Gen. Abdullah Al Sheikh, the director of public security in the kingdom, said that by 8 a.m. (0500 GMT), all the pilgrims had ascended Mount Arafat "Without any bottlenecks... or criminal acts or traffic accidents worth mentioning."

The annual gathering has inevitably seen many dramas in the past. Some 1,400 pilgrims died in a tunnel stampede two years ago. More than 400 mainly Iranian pilgrims died in clashes with security forces in 1987.

The Iranians were absent the following three years in protest against a Saudi-clamped quota, but returned in 1991 and have created no problems.

But last year, a Nigerian plane crashed killed 264 pilgrims and crew returning after the Haj.

A Saudi official statement this week expressed anger at claims in scattered Iranian papers about Saudi security harassing the Iranians.

More anger, however, was directed to Tripoli and Baghdad. The Libyan Foreign Ministry said King Fahd had prevented Libyan pilgrims by conceding to the U.N. air embargo clamped over the Lockerbie affair. A Saudi official statement denounced the "Libyan propaganda hubbub... the Libyan regime seeking material for provocation, and the distraction of its own people."

It pointed out that more than 3,000 Libyans were present at Mecca, having come from third countries.



His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday decorates an ex-serviceman for his distinguished service (Petra photo).

Jordan celebrates anniversary of Great Arab Revolt, Army Day

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Wednesday celebrated the anniversary of the Great Arab Revolt and Army Day with festivities organised by the Armed Forces.

One of the highlights of the events was a ceremony attended by His Majesty King Hussein at the Martyrs' Monument in Amman.

King Hussein accompanied by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah, Prince Ali, Prince Hamzah and Prince Hashem and Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and other dignitaries, attended the ceremony.

After an official welcome ceremony, the King toured various parts of the museum relating the story of the Great Arab Revolt and the items and weapons denoting the development of the Jordan Armed Forces since the revolt began in 1916.

King Hussein also watered the olive tree in the courtyard and signed the visitors' register. Earlier in the day, King Hussein decorated senior officers of the Armed Forces and the Public Security, the Civil Defence and the General Intelligence Department with distinguished medals in recognition of their services.

The ceremony took place at Raghadan palace in Amman. After the presentation of the medals, King Hussein met at Al Hussein Youth City with dignitaries and exchanged with them good wishes on the occasion.

These included the prime minister, Cabinet members, the speakers of Parliament, the speaker of the Palestine National Council, senior officers of the Armed Forces and the Public Security Department, Palestine Liberation Army, diplomats and others.

Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces, hosted a lunch in honour of the King at Al Hussein Youth City. It was attended by Princes Abdullah, Ali, Hamzah, and Hashem as well as the prime minister and dignitaries.

Israel says curbs on Gazans eased further

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli army said Wednesday it had further eased restrictions on the flow of Arab workers from Gaza into Israel. The limits were imposed following a two-week closure of the seaside strip after the fatal stabbing of an Israeli girl by a Gaza man on May 24.

Israel Radio said more than 1,000 Palestinians from Gaza entered Israel Wednesday morning under the new rules, many more than on Monday or Tuesday.

The Gaza Strip had been closed until Monday, when Gazans aged 28 and over were first permitted back inside Israel. Transportation had to be provided by employers for groups of at least 10 employees.

The restrictions blocked most of the 40,000 Gazans who normally work in Israel from returning to their jobs.

On Wednesday an Israeli government statement said the minimum age for Gazans allowed inside Israel was lowered to 25 and that groups of fewer than 10 workers would be allowed in.

The changes followed pressure from Israeli businessmen and military officials who worried that the initial restrictions would fuel further unrest.

Israeli media said Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was also unhappy with the restrictions, apparently fearing a fresh wave of violence on the eve of June 23 national elections.

The Hebrew daily Hadasot quoted Mr. Shamir as telling parliament's defence and foreign affairs committee on Tuesday that "that closure of Gaza isn't a desirable solution. We must find other ways to provide the population there with a livelihood while preventing violence."

"We are working through a method of experiments and trial runs," Mr. Shamir told legislators who discussed Gaza policy. We must try different ways and new ideas."

About 100 Israelis, mainly building contractors, chanted slogans, stopped cars and banged on their roofs in Gaza on Tuesday to protest at the new pass laws preventing thousands of Palestinians from working in Israel.

Police threw the protesting employers out of the tightly guarded strip.

In Gaza City on Tuesday soldiers shot and critically wounded Muntaz Seif, 16, after youths hurled concrete blocks at the troops, an army spokeswoman said.

Unknown assailants in the Gaza Strip Wednesday shot dead a man who residents said was well-known as a collaborator

Iran hangs 4 rioters

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Four Iranians were hanged Wednesday for leading anti-government riots recently in the northeastern city of Mashhad, Tehran Radio said.

An unspecified number of others who took part were sentenced to lashings or prison terms, and the investigation into the riots was continuing, the radio said.

"Four of the main ringleaders of the May 30 unrest in the holy city of Mashhad were hanged at dawn," Tehran Radio said.

Mashhad's Islamic revolutionary court sentenced an unspecified number of people to long or short jail terms or flogging for rioting and trials of others continued, it added.

In Tehran, supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said the Mashhad violence was carried out by "bullies and ruffians... instigated by the clandestine, masked counter-revolution."

"There is this group of ruffians and bullies, a small minority, the loafers and vagabonds in the society."

"The law-enforcement machinery should pull them out and throw them away like weed," he said in a speech to members of

(Continued on page 5)

Angry mourners assail Islamists at Fodah funeral

CAIRO (Agencies) — Hundreds of angry, weeping mourners marched through Cairo shouting secular slogans and singing Egypt's national anthem at the funeral of murdered writer Farag Fodah on Wednesday.

Mr. Fodah, 47, a prominent secularist who scoffed at Muslim fundamentalists, was gunned down on Monday in the first killing of its kind in Egypt for several years.

He received traditional funeral prayers at the Omar Makram mosque in central Cairo. "Farag Fodah" is the martyr of God, "Islam is Islam," to the Jama'at and brothers," mourners shouted in the funeral procession.

They were referring to the Jama'at Islamiya (Islamic Group), which espouses the use of force to oppose the government and the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood who seek an Islamic state by peaceful means.

One suspect, alleged triggerman Adel Shafi Ahmad, 25, was arrested after Mr. Fodah's shooting. Police said he admitted the attack was planned since early this year because of Mr. Fodah's criticism of Muslim militants.

Government ministers, presidential aides, Egypt's highest Islamic official and some Muslim fundamentalists joined about 300

friends, relatives, and secularist sympathisers in the procession.

After coffin bearers loaded the body into a hearse, a crowd of mourners pursued Mohammad Abdul Qaddous, a prominent Muslim fundamentalist and journalist attending the funeral, down a side street angrily shouting at him "look at the blood of Farag Fodah."

Security forces shielded Mr. Abdul Qaddous and bundled him into a car which sped away.

Police hunting one of Mr. Fodah's suspected killers said earlier they arrested about 200 suspects in searches through a fundamentalist district and placed armed guards on many of Egypt's prominent intellectuals.

Foreign Minister Amr Mousa told Reuters he could not give an official statement on the killing, on which the government has so far remained silent.

Government newspapers published a drivers' licence picture Wednesday of the alleged motorcycle driver, identified as Ashraf Ibrahim Al Sayed Safah. The driver fled the scene in a commuter train.

A spokesman for the Muslim Brotherhood said Wednesday the group opposed the use of violence as occurred in Fodah's killing.

France assigns top judge to Bseiso case

PARIS (AP) — France's top anti-terrorism judge was assigned Wednesday to oversee investigation into the assassination of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) acting security chief outside a Paris hotel.

The PLO has blamed the killing of Atef Bseiso on the Israeli secret service, Mossad.

However, French investigators say they also are examining the possibility that Mr. Bseiso was killed by members of the Abu Nidal organisation.

The Israeli government has denied responsibility, although its military intelligence chief linked Mr. Bseiso to the attack that killed 11 Israeli athletes at the 1972 Summer Olympics.

Mr. Bseiso, who was gunned down early Monday, was in Paris to meet with French intelligence officials, sources in the PLO and French government have said. Some French press reports said he regularly provided French officials with information on Palestinian splinter groups such as Abu Nidal's organisation.

Anonymous callers have claimed responsibility on behalf of two Jewish extremist groups.

The French news agency Agence France-Press (AFP) said it received a communiqué Tuesday at its bureau in Tunisia claiming responsibility on behalf of the Abu Nidal group. But AFP said the group later issued a statement in Beirut denying it had issued such a communiqué.

Two members of the PLO's ruling Executive Committee, Sulaiman Najib and Abdul Rahim Mallouh, said Monday they did not believe that Abu Nidal was involved.

Mr. Bseiso had run the PLO's

day-to-day security affairs since his predecessor, Salah Khalaf, was assassinated by a turcoat bodyguard in January 1991.

Ibrahim Souss, the PLO's chief representative in Paris, said the killing "bore the fingerprints of the Mossad because of its planning, its method of execution and the high degree of professionalism with which it was carried out."

The government prosecutor's office Wednesday formally opened a judicial investigation of Mr. Bseiso's killing. The case was assigned to Judge Jean-Louis Bruguiere, who has handled numerous terrorism cases, including several involving the Abu Nidal group.

Mr. Bruguiere now is in Africa pursuing an investigation of the bombing of a UTA airliner over Niger in 1989 that killed 170 people. He has issued arrest warrants for four Libyans suspected of involvement.

Police said Mr. Bseiso, 44, was shot with a 9-MM firearm as he returned to his Left Bank hotel from a dinner with two friends. Investigators said the killers clearly were well-informed about Mr. Bseiso's movements.

Mr. Bseiso, married and the father of three young children, was born in 1948 in Gaza. His family fled months later because of the Arab-Israeli war.

Palestinian officials in Tunis, site of PLO headquarters, said Mr. Bseiso's body had been brought there Tuesday night. They said he would be buried in the same cemetery where Mr. Khalaf and some of the victims of a 1985 Israeli raid on PLO headquarters were buried.

Israeli warplanes bomb Lebanon resistance bases

SIDON (Agencies) — Israeli warplanes blasted resistance bases in South Lebanon Wednesday after clashes in the security zone it occupies in South Lebanon.

Police in the southern market town of Nabatiyah said fighter bombers rocketed the Lowweiz hills in Iqlim Al Tufah in two sorties.

Reporters said they could see clouds of dust and black smoke billowing from the scene, where the Iranian-backed Hizbollah maintains mortar and Katyusha rocket bases.

No immediate casualties were reported in the 6:30 p.m. (1530 GMT) raid, the 19th such strike on targets in Lebanon this year.

At least 37 people were killed and 81 wounded in the previous attacks since Jan. 11. The last three were carried out on June 5.

The raid capped a day of violence in the volatile region, during which Israeli helicopter gunships strafed resistance bases above Sidon.

That attack followed two separate clashes in the "security zone" between Hizbollah and Palestinian guerrillas and the Israeli-affiliated South Lebanon Army (SLA).

The SLA militiamen were wounded in the gun battles, according to police.

Israel's warplanes earlier buz-

zed Sidon and nearby Palestinian refugee camps in a series of mock air raids. Six jet fighters took turn in crashing the sound barrier in low altitude sorties, but carried out no bombing runs.

Security sources said the helicopter gunships caught a guerrilla squad heading to attack the "security zone" in the south held by Israeli troops and the SLA militia.

The gunships strafed the guerrilla, wounding two, the sources added.

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) in a statement in Beirut said its guerrillas ambushed an Israeli patrol near the village of Zawtar and caused heavy casualties.

Hours later, the Islamic Resistance, a coalition led by Hizbollah, said its fighters ambushed an Israeli patrol near Sojoud hill on the edge of the zone.

The Islamic Resistance said an Israeli armoured troop carried was destroyed and all soldiers aboard were killed.

Palestinian fighters were on alert Wednesday fearing an Israeli ground thrust.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) sources in Sidon said the alert was ordered as a precaution in light of stepped up Israeli military activity.

From the sands of Sinai in 1967 to the waters of the Gulf in 1991 — the rise and fall of Arabism

By Lamin K. Andoni

IMMEDIATELY AFTER the humiliating military defeat in the 1967 war with Israel, the late pan-Arab nationalist Egyptian President Jamal Abdul Nasser announced his resignation in a radio speech, triggering massive demonstrations across the Arab World, demanding that the charismatic leader remained in power.

Subsequently, when Nasser bowed to popular pressure he made another speech describing the result of the war "as a setback" (naksa in Arabic), vowing to regain the Arab land captured by Israel and to lead the Arab World to victory.

Twenty-five years later, the Arab World has not recovered

from its defeat and it has been forced to move towards a practically more pragmatic approach and accept peace talks with Israel under terms that fall short of Arab national rights and aspirations.

Nasser did not live long enough to realise his declared goals (he died in 1970). The 1967 defeat is now viewed by Arab historians as a turning point that signalled a rapid collapse of pan-Arabism.

Some historians and analysts, however, argue that the 1967 military defeat could have been a starting point for Arab unity and building Arab strength if Egypt had not signed the 1978 peace treaty with Israel — which removed

the most populous Arab country from at least the military equation of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

This theory, endorsed by several scholars from Jordan, Egypt, Palestine and Syria, cites the revolutionary and pan-Arab nationalist trend that swept the Arab World immediately after the 1967 war.

NEWS ANALYSIS

The wave of what appeared then to be a surge of revolutionary pan-Arab nationalist and leftist movements across the Arab World with Nasser at the helm suffered a blow when Egypt shifted its position under

the late President Anwar Sadat in the mid-70s and throughout the 80s.

The only exception was the emergence of an independent nationalist Palestinian movement, which ironically picked up momentum after the Arab defeat, which inadvertently prompted Palestinians to decide to take their destiny into their own hands.

It was in 1969, two years after the war, nascent armed resistance groups led by Fateh took over the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), turning into an independent representative of the Palestinian people.

Although the Palestinian movement as such was not

crushed by the decline of pan-Arabism, it still suffers from the reverberations of the 1967 defeat and the developments which followed.

"The balance of power imposed by the 1967 war was reinforced again and again, finally dictating the disadvantageous terms of the current peace process," says Dr. Mustafa Barghouti, a prominent activist from the West Bank who attended the recent Lisbon meeting to reassess the seven-month-old Middle East peace process.

Like most Palestinian activists and analysts, Dr. Barghouti views the Camp David

(Continued on page 5)

Upon the Occasion of
EID AL -ADHA



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Qadhafi comes under unprecedented attack from Libyan weekly

TRIPOLI (Agencies) — A Libyan newspaper, in an extraordinary attack on Colonel Muammar Qadhafi, has denounced his dream of Arab unity as a "mirage" and said Libya must put its own interests first.

The article appeared in Al Jamahiriya, a weekly published by Libya's "revolutionary committee," as the country faced a crucial decision — whether to surrender to the West or to continue to blow up an American airliner in 1988.

It did not use Col. Qadhafi's name but there is no one else in Libya to whom it could possibly have been addressed.

"You are chasing a mirage," it said. "But this time we are not running after you..."

"Go where you like. We will not follow... the Arabs are laughing at us because of you and we will tolerate it no longer."

"We have been waiting for 20 years... today, we do not care whether you agree or not... we shall not believe a word about what you call the Arab fate... 'Arab blood' and 'Arab feeling'... 'Your Arabs have turned their backs on us. They surrendered, and took up the banner of our enemies'."

"Your Arabs blackmailed us, and joined those who blockade and restrict us. They are contributing to our murder by instalments."

The United Nations imposed sanctions on Libya in April 1992.

press for the surrender of two men accused of planting the bomb that destroyed a Pan Am Jumbo jet over Lockerbie, Scotland, in December 1988 and for cooperation with France in a 1989 airliner bombing over Niger.

The weekly appeared on Tuesday with the article, headlined "Allowing the forbidden" in its last page. Its text was carried overnight by the official news agency JANA, which has been going through unexplained internal changes.

Until this week JANA and Libya's only daily newspaper Al Fajr Al Jadid, were telling readers that Arabs supported Libya in its conflict with the West over accusations it supported terrorism.

On Tuesday then began saying the Arab and Muslim worlds were not backing Libya.

A revolutionary committee sacked Muhammad Lamari as director of JANA and Al Fajr Al Jadid, although there was no other outward sign of upheaval.

"They have been spurred on to do this by a real anger against fabrication and deception which aims to deceive the people and to make them ignorant," the agency said in a commentary on the takeover.

The motive behind the change was unclear.

One of the first stories the "new JANA" distributed was a report of telephone calls by Col. Qadhafi to leaders of the four

other countries in the Arab Maghreb Union. They are Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco and Mauritania.

The dispatch said Col. Qadhafi complained of the U.N. sanctions against Libya and especially of Saudi Arabia's complicity in them, which disallowed Libyan flights carrying pilgrims to Muslim holy sites in Saudi Arabia.

The criticism of Col. Qadhafi came two days before the General People's Congress, the top rung of Libya's protracted parliamentary procedure, was to announce important political, economic and foreign policies. It was expected to discuss Libya's impasse with the West.

The criticism coincided with a meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, where Libya was reported to have given Britain information on former Libyan links with the Irish Republican Army.

It was not immediately known whether the meeting dealt also with the bombing of the Pan Am plane.

The attack on Col. Qadhafi accompanied a large campaign against Arab peoples and states, particularly Saudi Arabia. In the past, such Libyan campaigns targeted Arab governments and regimes but not the people on ground they are suppressed by their rulers.

"We have to rearrange our house to serve our own national interests and nothing else," said Al Jamahiriya.

Egypt's Muslims blame government for Fodah murder

CAIRO (Agencies) — As security forces searched for the killer of an Egyptian writer who mocked Muslim fundamentalists, a Muslim group said the government was responsible for his death by letting him defame Islam.

Farag Fodah, 49, a prominent secularist, was riddled with bullets while getting into his car on Monday evening and died in hospital on Tuesday.

Security sources said there were two attackers. They had caught one and mounted a sweeping search for the other. They identified both as members of Jihad, the underground group that assassinated President Anwar Sadat in 1981.

They gave no details of the murder.

His death drew mixed reactions from the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood and human rights activists, but both blamed the government.

A strong opponent of Muslim fundamentalists in his writings, he had announced a few hours earlier plans to form a new movement to unite Egyptians of all religions.

The officially-banned Muslim Brotherhood expressed sorrow at the killing but said the government was to blame.

"We are extremely sorry that events developed in such a way," Brotherhood spokesman Mamoun Al Hodeibi said in a statement. But he added:

"In our view the government's behaviour generally speaking is responsible."

"The government support people who use their pens to stab Islam in the back."

Harold Al Sayed, a top surgeon called in by President Hosni Mubarak, used 25 litres of blood trying to save Mr. Fodah who was wounded in the liver, stomach and lungs.

Security sources said the captured suspect, Abdul Shafiq Ahmad, had admitted to planning the killing for five months.

"The sources said other prominent personalities had been put under armed guard. They gave no details."

In his last article, in the state-controlled October magazine on Sunday, Mr. Fodah said the Tunisian government had filmed fundamentalist leaders having sex with beautiful women in prayer rugs.

"The forces of darkness are obsessed with sex," he wrote, ridiculing a militant Muslim group in Assint for banning undergarments and marriages because of supposed sexual connotations.

The Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights (EOHR) hailed Farag as a founder member and a fearless advocate of freedom of thought.

"It is the first time in recall in which an Egyptian thinker is assassinated for no other reason than for his thought and views, a precedent which represents a dangerous intensification of the crisis of freedom of thought in our country," EOHR said in a statement.

It blamed the government for allegedly turning a blind eye to religious extremists.

Iraq appeals for end to sanctions

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Iraq appealed to the world on Tuesday to lift U.N. sanctions imposed nearly two years ago, saying it had behaved in a responsible manner and would continue cooperating with the U.N. Security Council.

Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz made the appeal in a speech to delegates at the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro.

"The Security Council is called upon to take serious measures towards lifting the blockade and to refrain from being a political tool used to achieve objectives contrary to the principles enshrined in the U.N. Charter," Mr. Aziz said.

The sale of Iraqi oil, the country's main source of earnings, has been embargoed since the Security Council imposed mandatory sanctions against Baghdad in August 1990, shortly after Iraq invaded Kuwait. The sanctions remain in place.

Mr. Aziz, however, said Iraq had already demonstrated "with proof and documentation the extent of our implementation of the council's resolutions but the council's position remains unchanged, and the blockade against Iraq continues unabated."

Security Council members say they are not satisfied Iraq has cooperated fully in disclosing its weapons of mass destruction, which are required to be destroyed under U.N. resolutions.

Mr. Aziz devoted most of his speech to describing the environmental destruction which he said had been caused by the U.S.-led allied bombardment of Iraq during the Gulf war.

The decisive solution to ward off the dangers of disease and pollution in Iraq lies in the lifting of the comprehensive blockade imposed upon our people," he said.

"I do not want to stir a political debate from this podium which is devoted to the question of the environment," he said.

"The link, however, between the environmental situation in Iraq and the blockade imposed upon it is unequivocally clear and has been confirmed by the

opposition from foreign radio stations."

Baghdad was in no way threatened by the opposition whose leaders were "despicable renegades," he added. "We wanted to make them understand that we fear nothing."

Iraq last week called the opposition groups traitors, saying they could achieve nothing apart from issuing statements and holding meetings in "hostile capitals."

Ethnic, religious and ideological differences usually keep apart the 60 opposition groups, but Uday said all of them together were no match for the authorities.

Reminding the government's opponents of an Iraqi political tradition he said: "The armed forces were behind all political changes in Iraq. No one has come from abroad and assumed power in the country."

However, the official press last week reacted angrily to U.S. plans to increase funding for attempts to topple President Saddam.

The New York Times reported that the House of Representatives Select Committee on Intelligence approved secret funding of \$40 million for 1993 to overthrow President Saddam, more than double this year's \$15 million.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Russia will not count out future nuclear sales

TEL AVIV (AP) — A top Russian military official visiting Israel would not count out future foreign sales of Russia's nuclear weapons stockpile, Israel Television reported Tuesday. Dr. Vitaly V. Shlykov, a former Soviet deputy minister of defence, said that "luckily, (the sale of nuclear weapons) is not happening yet. Russia is very busy withdrawing these weapons inside Russia." But Mr. Shlykov added, "What will happen later, we'll think about it later." Israel Television reported that Mr. Shlykov said Russia's sales of conventional weapons would continue in order to help prop up Russia's ailing economy. The television report said that Mr. Shlykov counted out Russian involvement in the solving problems in the Middle East until its own problems were solved. Mr. Shlykov is heading a seven-member delegation of Russia's current military leadership visiting Israel on a week-long trip organised by the Washington-based International Security Council. The delegation received extensive briefings from their counterparts in the Israel defence establishment, Israel Television said.

Three policemen killed in Algiers

ALGIERS (R) — Three Algerian policemen were slain on Tuesday and another wounded by unknown armed attackers, police sources said. The policemen, who were on guard duty at a cement factory quarry at Rais Mamoud, a northern suburb of Algiers, were attacked at dawn on Tuesday, the police added without giving any details. Quoting eyewitnesses, the national radio said in a broadcast that "a number of other wounded policemen were in a serious condition." Armed attacks against the police or paramilitary forces, in which nearly 70 have died since February, have generally been attributed by authorities to Muslim fundamentalist groups. Furthermore, the Arab language daily Algerie-Aujourd'hui, citing witnesses, said on Tuesday that army helicopters had bombed the villages of Belmon, Arkoub, Teguirine and Djarrach in the mountainous region of Lakharia, 80 kilometres south of the capital, where the army has been searching for armed groups of fundamentalists since the beginning of May.

Israeli-backed militia frees Lebanese soldier

NABATIYEH, Lebanon (R) — Israel's militia allies in South Lebanon have freed a Lebanese soldier detained last week in South Lebanon, witnesses said on Wednesday. They said the 19-year-old soldier was released by the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia on Tuesday at a checkpoint on the edge of Israel's self-declared "security zone" in the south. He was snatched on Friday as he drove in the village of Arnoun, just outside the zone.

Who's trying to make an ass of Likud?

TEL AVIV (R) — Someone is trying to make an ass of Israel's ruling Likud Party. Police discovered five miles in the stairwell of Likud Party headquarters Tuesday with signs in Hebrew reading: "Even asses understand it's time to change the government. 'It's time for change' is part of the opposition Labour Party's slogan for the June 23 general election."

New Tunisian cabinet ministers named

TUNIS (AP) — President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali Tuesday named several new government ministers to the cabinet, including a top human rights aide in the head of the Justice Ministry. He also created a new ministry of international cooperation and investment, Premier Hamed Karoui remained in his post. Sadok Shabane, presidential councillor for human rights, was named to take over the justice portfolio from Abdul Rahim Zouari, who left the government. Former Agriculture Minister Nouri Zargati was named minister of finance, replacing Mohammed Ghannouchi, who became minister of international cooperation and investment. Mr. Ben Ali also named the heads of three state-run firms to his cabinet: Minister of Equipment and Housing Sharfeddine Guelloz, Transport Minister Tahar Haj Ali, and Environment Minister Mohammed Hedi Milka. Presidential councillor Moncer Rouissi was named employment minister, and Industrial Promotion Agency Director-General Salah Hanashi became state secretary for international cooperation.

King Hassan names electoral commission

RABAT (R) — King Hassan has appointed a multi-party national commission to supervise Morocco's elections due to be held this year and ensure that they will be free, honest and open. The move was apparently designed to satisfy the demands of four opposition parties which have been campaigning for an independent body with full powers to supervise and control all stages of the electoral process. At a ceremony in the palace, the king said he would chair the national commission led by Mohammed Mikou, a magistrate who is also president of the official Consultative Council on Human Rights. It will include representatives of five pro-government and four opposition parties represented in parliament, with representatives of the palace and of the Interior Ministry which is responsible for organising the elections. The king said there would be a similar commission for each of the country's 60 provinces.

Danish U.N. troops to pull out of Cyprus

COPENHAGEN (AP) — Danish peacekeeping forces in Cyprus will withdraw after 28 years. Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen told reporters Tuesday. The 352 Danish volunteers patrolling between the Greek and Turkish zones will probably be out of Cyprus by early 1993. Mr. Ellemann-Jensen said, "We have done our duty and a bit more than that. We have shown charity that is close to the unreasonable," he said, adding that U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali has been notified. Mr. Ellemann-Jensen said: "There's a huge demand for peacekeeping forces elsewhere in the world. For the moment, (Denmark) is the best represented country in Yugoslavia." Besides an 884-member contingent in Croatia, Denmark has 46 peacekeepers in Kuwait and 25 observers in the Middle East.

S. Arabia denies Iraqi charge of Haj deaths

JEDDAH (R) — Saudi Arabia has dismissed as lies an Iraqi minister's charge that 10 Iraqi pilgrims had died because of Saudi mistreatment during the annual pilgrimage to Mecca which reached its climax on Wednesday.

"The Iraqi official was lying... in a clear attempt to defame Saudi Arabia and its institutions," the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted an official statement as saying late on Tuesday.

Iraqi Religious Affairs Minister Abdullah Fadhel said at a Baghdad news conference on Tuesday that the pilgrims died in a desert camp near Medina because the Saudi authorities left them without food and water for five days.

"The minister... lied in everything he said at the news conference," the brief statement said.

Mr. Fadhel also said that women pilgrims were molested by the Saudi guards and pilgrims were robbed.

Saudi Arabia, which was main base of U.S.-led forces that defeated Iraq in the war over Kuwait, agreed to accept 10,000 pilgrims from Iraq this year.

Mr. Fadhel said more than 50 were denied entry when they travelled by land to Saudi Arabia on May 30.

SPA on Tuesday published interviews with Iraqi pilgrims praising the Haj facilities provided by the kingdom. But most were clearly Kurdish and other opponents of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein based in territory outside Iraq government control.

Israel frees detained foreign peace marchers

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli authorities have released some 100 American and European peace activists after detaining them for two days for crossing into a closed military zone, an activist spokeswoman said.

The peace activists are in Israel for a week of demonstrations against occupation timed to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the 1967 Middle-East war.

Spokeswoman Kathy Kelly said other activists nonetheless managed to visit Palestinians in the closed military zone of Jenin in West Bank on Tuesday, from which they had been barred on Sunday.

On Sunday, the army said the presence of the peace marchers could have incited violence. Israel Television reported that the Jenin area remained closed on Tuesday because of a shooting incident on Tuesday morning.

The detained peace marchers included 46 Americans and four Canadians.

Israeli interior ministry spokeswoman Tova Elinson said Tuesday the peace marchers would not be welcome in Israel beyond the dates on their return tickets.

"They are tourists here and they have to obey the law," Mr. Elinson said.

But Ms. Kelly said some tour members were considering extending their stay beyond their ticketed June 15 departure date.

"We'd like a better understanding of what the occupation is like for both Palestinians and Israelis," she said, noting that the group has not yet had an opportunity to meet Israelis.

She also said that the group was appealing a police ban on the final leg of the march, from the West Bank town of Ramallah to occupied Jerusalem, to Israel's supreme court. The final stretch was to have taken place on

Wednesday. The police ban came after Sunday's arrests.

Peace marcher G. Siman Harak, a Catholic priest from Fairfield, Connecticut, said the experience was the first time he had ever been jailed. "It was worth it for the sake of peace and justice between Israelis and Palestinians," he said.

Mr. Harak, 45, who teaches ethics and justice at Fairfield University, said he entertained his fellow marchers with Bible land stories during the detention.

Israeli said Tuesday troops and police prevented a group of Jews from crossing into the occupied West Bank to establish a new settlement.

Military sources said the settlers were blocked under the same rules used against the peace marchers.

The settlers, rejecting press reports that their attempt was linked to Israel's election on June 23, said a group of 20 families would keep trying to Givat, currently an army outpost on the outskirts of the West Bank city of Jenin.

The army's Jenin area commander Colonel Amal told the settlers: "Sunday morning I had other people here, people from the peace movement. I am carrying out the orders of the army, of my commanders, and I got an order not to allow you to pass, just as the others were not allowed, and I ask you to honour it."

Defence ministry spokesman Danny Naveh told Reuters the outpost would become a civilian settlement "at some point."

"There is a standing decision to make the outpost a settlement, but no decision has been made as to when," he said. Fostering Jewish settlement has been a cornerstone of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's hardline Likud government, but has led to friction between Israel and Washington.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 ... Doc: "Sancuaires Sauvages"
18:30 ... News in French
19:00 ... Le Cirque
19:30 ... News in Arabic
20:00 ... News in Arabic
21:00 ... The Simpsons
21:10 ... European Soccer Championship
22:00 ... News in English
22:30 ... Movie of the Week: "Near Miss"

PRAYER TIMES

03:50 ... Fajr
05:25 ... (Sunrise) Duha
12:30 ... Dhuhur
16:15 ... 'Asr
19:45 ... Maghrib
21:20 ... 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swaidah
Tel: 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel: 627785.
St. Joseph Church Tel: 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel: 637440.
De la Sade Church Tel: 661757
Terra Nova Church Tel: 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel: 623541.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771531.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 627981, 665526.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824 and 654932.
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be relatively hot and some clouds will appear at various altitudes. Winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 20 / 33
Aqaba 24 / 34
Deserts 17 / 35
Jordan Valley 21 / 36

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

EMERGENCIES

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 34, Aqaba 42. Humidity readings: Amman 23 per cent, Aqaba 23 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:
Dr. Walid Al Masri 675485
Dr. Nidal Al Dalabih 692825
Dr. Mohamed Al Nabawi 632925
Dr. Fakher Bilal 625778
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 670535
Nabulsi pharmacy 632672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yaacoub pharmacy 644943
Shamoun pharmacy 637660

DEIR:
Dr. Ali Al Omari (-)
Al Shams pharmacy (982238)
ZARQA:
Dr. Musa Odeh (-)

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information
(directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone
Ropings 623101
Abdullah Telephone Ropings 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642316
Abdullah Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 658463
Al-Musaber Hospital 667219
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/57
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Islam, Al-Muhajreen 771013/3
Al-Bashir, J. Amman 775112/6
Arzy, Marab 891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Al-Hamra Hospital 674135
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Jbe Sina Hospital (09)985732
Al-Hikmah Modern Hospital (09)999990

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel: (05)5200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
(Terminal 1)
18:15 Beirut (RJ)
18:45 Athens (RJ)
19:00 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
19:30 Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
21:00 Rome (RJ)
19:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
19:30 Greek Catholic (RJ)
20:00 Athens (RJ)
20:30 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
21:00 Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
21:30 Rome (RJ)
18:15 Beirut (RJ)
18:45 Athens (RJ)
19:00 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
19:30 Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
21:00 Rome (RJ)
18:15 Beirut (RJ)
18:45 Athens (RJ)
19:00 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
19:30 Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
21:00 Rome (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

66:45 Damascus, Paris (AF)
13:30 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
18:15 Istanbul (TK)
19:30 Cairo (MS)
19:30 Larnaca (CY)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:45 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
17:25 Istanbul (TK)
19:00 Cairo (MS)
20:30 Larnaca (CY)
19:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
19:30 Greek Catholic (RJ)
20:00 Athens (RJ)
20:30 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
21:00 Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
21:30 Rome (RJ)
18:15 Beirut (RJ)
18:45 Athens (RJ)
19:00 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
19:30 Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
21:00 Rome (RJ)
18:15 Beirut (RJ)
18:45 Athens (RJ)
19:00 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
19:30 Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
21:00 Rome (RJ)

MARKET PRICES

Upplower price in the per kg
Apple (red) 700/600
Banana 500 / 430
Banana (Mukammal) 550 / 500
Beans 500 / 520
Broad beans 520 / 239
Cabbage 120 / 80
Carrot 220 / 160
Cauliflower 110 / 80
Cauliflower (small) 120 / 120
Cucumbers (small) 100 / 100
Eggplant 160 / 70
Garlic (green) 320 / 250
Lemon 600 / 300
Marrow (large) 100 / 30
Marrow (small) 120 / 120
Onion (dry) 140 / 80
Onion (green) 250 / 100
Oranges 400 / 250
Peaches 720 / 620
Pears 350 / 260
Pepper (hot) 280 / 220
Pepper (sweet) 280 / 220
Potatoes 210 / 150
Radish 150 / 100
Sage 170 / 100
Tomatoes 100 / 80



PRINCESS MAKES INSPECTION TOURS

Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Wednesday made inspection tours of areas in the Madaba, Mawqar and Jizah districts, south of here, distributing gifts, food and clothes to needy families and enquiring about the work of social centres. The Princess, who is chairperson to the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund's Board of Trustees, first stopped at Mawqar where she met with tribal chiefs and learnt about their social conditions. She visited Al Tallibeh Palestine Refugee Camp in Jizah and met with the local

residents at the youth centre and the local women's groups. She later called at a number of neighbouring villages where she expressed good wishes for the Eid Al Adha feast. A total of 650 local needy families received gifts and in-kind assistance during the Princess's visit to these regions. The Princess's meetings with the local residents took place in the presence of local governors and heads of government departments in the region, as well as senior officials from UNRWA (the United Nations Relief and Works Agency) for Palestinian refugees.

Amman Chamber of Industry prepares for meeting on promotion of exports

AMMAN (J.T.) — A seminar on promoting Jordan's national exports will be organised here, August and according to the organisers, at least two U.N. organisations and the European Community will be among those attending the two-day meetings.

The Amman Chamber of Industry, which is sponsoring the gathering, said that means of increasing Jordanian exports and following up on new economic trends, as well as legislation required to ensure continued flow of exports, will be discussed.

The U.N. Economic and Social Committee for Western Asia (ESCWA), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the European Community (EC) will be among agencies and groups represented at the meeting considered as a follow-up to a seminar organised by the Amman Chamber of Industry in 1989, according to a chamber statement.

The statement said that questions related to simplifying formalities in export-related matters, increasing the volume of trade and increasing investments in Jordan to help find work for the unemployed, but skilled workers, will be among the main concerns.

The statement noted that a general meeting was held recently at the Chamber of Industry attended by U.N. agencies representatives to review topics on the agenda for the August seminar.

The statement said that the agenda contains such questions as incentives to encourage investors to come to Jordan, spreading awareness among members of the public on exports, matters related to the services sector and encouraging inter-Arab trade.

According to Ministry of Industry and Trade officials, close cooperation between the public and private sectors in Jordan helped to increase national exports to JD 771 million by the end of 1991. The ministry's secretary-general Marwan Awad, was quoted as saying that between 1989, when the first seminar on exports was held, and the end of last year, the country's balance of trade with India, Indonesia, Yemen, the United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sudan, Libya and Bangladesh was in favour of Jordan, but the Kingdom's balance of trade with American and European countries was in favour of the other countries.

Mr. Awad noted that the ministry was taking immediate

measures to help promote domestic and external trade and stimulate Jordan's trade ties with European countries. He said by the end of 1991, Jordanian merchants involved in import/export operations stood at 9,000, up from 2,500 in 1989, something which reflects the Kingdom's removal of barriers and restrictions in the way of free trade with other countries.

Dr. Rima Khalaf Hunaidy, director of the Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCCO), told the Jordan Times recently that the Gulf war made Jordan realise the importance of promoting its exports and diversifying export commodities and markets. Jordan is still giving priority to trading with Arab countries, but the Kingdom is also looking for markets in Europe and America, Dr. Hunaidy noted. She said JEDCCO offers technical assistance and partial finance to private sector firms undertaking marketing activities and assists individual firms to export to U.S. and other markets.

"On the whole, she said, Jordan needs to expand the existing markets of the Arab world and penetrate new non-traditional markets in other countries.

Ministry floods markets with imported meat for the Eid

AMMAN — The Ministry of Supply Wednesday flooded the local markets with eight tonnes of beef freshly imported from the Netherlands; ministry sources said that the shipment was one of a series to be brought in by merchants of the private sector.

According to the sources, each kilo of beef will sell for JD 2.32 only, noting that all types of meat will be made available during the Eid Al Adha feast starting Thursday.

The Amman Municipality slaughter house Monday slew 1,000 heads of sheep to be sold

locally and according to the sources, by Thursday, another 80 tonnes of fresh meat imported from Bulgaria will be on the markets.

Minister of Supply Mohammad Saqqaf Tuesday held a series of meetings with envoys from Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria, discussing with them means of promoting bilateral trade with special focus on meat imports from these three countries.

The Ministry of Supply said that merchants found violating regulations concerning the import, sale and prices of meat will face legal action.



RJ HONOURS STAFF — Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national airline, has honoured a group of 22 of its staff for their distinguished services for the first half of 1992. RJ Chief Executive Officer Mahmoud Jamal Balqaz noted in a brief address at the honouring ceremony that he was recognising the contribution of all RJ staff and not only those chosen for their excellent performance this year. He said he appreciated the work of all RJ employees in Jordan and at RJ offices and stations abroad and by honouring the group, he was giving further incentive for their efforts. RJ takes pride in its human resources who, Mr. Balqaz said, have proved to be of an excellent standard and high level training, distinguished among other airlines. Mr. Balqaz voiced his good wishes to the staff on the Eid Al Adha feast and distributed gifts to the 22-member staff. According to RJ sources, each RJ department nominates exemplary employees for the honouring ceremony which occurs monthly, quarterly or yearly. These are employees with distinguished performance and/or providing the best and model services to passengers.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King bestows medals on ambassadors

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday conferred Al Istiklal Medal of the First Order upon Russian Ambassador to Jordan Yuri Griadunov and Czechoslovak Ambassador Frantisek Dolezel on the occasion of the end of their tour of duty and in appreciation for their services to Jordan. The medals were presented to the ambassadors Monday by Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber at a luncheon held in their honour.

Minister inspects hospitals, centres

KARAK (Petra) — Health Minister Aref Al Bataineh made inspection visits to hospitals and a number of health centres in the Karak governorate. He announced later that the health situation and the services offered by these centres were at a very satisfactory level. Among the places visited was a hospital at Ghor Safi which offers services to 30,000 local inhabitants.

PSD announces closing of travel centres

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Wednesday announced the closure of centres organising the travel of citizens to the occupied West Bank across the Jordan River bridges during Eid Al Adha feast holiday. A PSD statement said that the centres, which were opened June 1 in Amman, Zarqa and Irbid, will resume their services Tuesday June 16.

Minister fixes oil, meat prices

AMMAN (Petra) — A statement by Minister of Supply Mohammad Al Saqqaf Wednesday fixed the prices of corn oil and meat for consumers. The statement said that a three litre can of corn oil of the Mazola brand made in Saudi Arabia will sell for JD 5.75 and a kilogramme of frozen meat imported from Germany will sell for JD 1.225.

Minister visits social, child care centres

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Social Development Amin Mashagbeh Tuesday paid an inspection visit to Al Hussein Social Centre and the Child Care Centre of the Ministry of Social Development. Dr. Mashagbeh called on workers at the two centres to do their utmost to achieve the ministry's goals in the field of child care. He said child care and preserving family cohesion are of the ministry's most important objectives. The minister distributed presents to children at the two centres on the occasion of Eid Al Adha feast.

Service centre organises seminar

TAFILEH (Petra) — Princess Basma Social Services Centre in Tafleeh Tuesday organised a seminar on mother and child health in cooperation with the health education section of the Tafleeh Health Department. Participants at the seminar stressed the importance of spreading health awareness among mothers through educational programmes and called for improving health services provided for mothers and children at primary health care centres and mother and child centres in the governorate to protect children from diseases and disabilities. They affirmed that balanced nutrition and proper vaccinations are of extreme importance for the protection of the health of the mother and the infant.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition of paintings by Ali Taleb and Rafiq Natri at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery — (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.). Plastic art exhibition by 40 Jordanian artists entitled "An Artist and a Painting" at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street. Exhibition of paintings by Issam Tantawi at the Phoenix Gallery for Experimental Arts. Exhibition of paintings by Patrice Pain at the French Cultural Centre.



Shobak Castle

Antiquities Department announces discovery of 1st century graveyard

AMMAN (Petra) — The Department of Antiquities Wednesday announced the discovery of a first century graveyard carved in the rocks in the Amman area and said that everything about the graveyard and the graves will be documented.

Department Director General Safwan Al Tell said in a statement that the graveyard dates back to between the first and third centuries A.D. and was found by a department official near the Al Hussein Youth City in Western Amman.

"Actually, the graveyard was found in the course of diggings by a citizen building his own home on the site when the graveyard came to light," said Dr. Tell.

The Department of Antiquities has ordered an immediate halt to the construction work until its staff has completed its documentation work, said Dr. Tell. But he said the complete discovery of the graveyard came after three days of hard work.

The Western Amman districts abound with such graveyards which contain the remains of bodies and skeletons of people laid next to each other with other items reflecting the traditions of the age. Such graveyards bear no historic significance and have no

distinguished bearing on the civilisations and cultures that dotted Jordan over the past ages, Dr. Tell added. For this reason, he said, the graveyard will be removed once the documentation work has been completed and the owner of the land will be allowed to resume construction work.

Noting that the Department of Antiquities has been discovering numerous graveyards or burial places, Dr. Tell said some of these have been found in caves and others in rocks underground and therefore the department was not interested in appropriating these sites.

Dr. Tell, however, cautioned Jordanians against believing rumours about the discoveries of hidden treasures and artefacts of historic value at such sites. He said that the Department of Antiquities has allocated sufficient funds for the purchase of artefacts or any item of value found underground in order to preserve them in the national museums to become part of the national heritage.

Referring to the department's activities, Dr. Tell said that teams of archaeologists affiliated to his office are currently involved in excavation activities at more than

20 historic sites around the country. He said some teams are busy at work at Al Rabad Ancient Castle in Ajloun, others are working at the ancient castles of Shobak, Karak and Aqaba, as well as the ancient Umayyad desert castles and at Muwaqqar in Amman, Umm Al Jimal, at the Byzantine places of worship along with other archaeological treasures in Rahab, Ajloun, Qsef, Rabbeh and the ancient Nabatean city of Petra.

More than 40 archaeological missions from Jordanian universities and archaeological institutes around the world have shared with the Department of Antiquities the continued excavation work at numerous sites in Jordan, Dr. Tell noted.

He said it is left in the department and its teams to carry out and supervise the restoration work at most of these discovered sites for the sake of preserving them as part of the national heritage.

Dr. Tell paid tribute to the Public Security Department and other concerned authorities for providing protection to the discovered archaeological sites and preserving the artefacts found from the various ages.

UNITED NATIONS

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)



الأمم المتحدة
اللجنة الاقتصادية والاجتماعية
لغربي اسيا
(الإسكوا)

Vacancy Announcement

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Amman, invites qualified candidates to apply for the following position of a temporary nature, initially up to August 1993, in the General Services Category:

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Duties and Responsibilities

1. Collects and compiles economic and social data from national and international sources;
2. Updates tables of statistical publications from ESCWA;
3. Contributes to the build up of the computerized data base by preparing maintaining statistical series of the data base; and
4. Makes various statistical calculations relating to data research studies prepared by the Division;
5. Utilizes the usual software on personal computers (Lotus 123, D-Base IV, SPSS, SAS, etc.);
6. Assists in the preparation and holding of meetings and seminars of the Division;

Qualifications:

1. University degree in Statistics, allied with computer training and application skills, or university degree in Computer Science allied with statistics.
2. Sound working knowledge in English and Arabic -written and spoken.
3. Professional experience is an asset.

Applications should be submitted on or before 15 June 1992.

Unsuitable applications will not be replied to.

ESCWA P.O. Box. 927115

'Solar chimney' suggested as energy source by German scientist



Aerial photograph of the experimental facility at Manzanares, Spain (height of chimney 200 m; chimney radius 5 m; collector 120/120 m; rotor diameter 10 m; nominal speed 100 rpm)

By Maha Addasi

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Countries like Jordan, with a great deal of sunshine and little water, should make use of solar energy to provide electricity, said Jorg Schlaich, who has designed a solar chimney for solar thermal electricity generation.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Dr. Schlaich, the director of the Institute of Structural Design at the University of Stuttgart, who is currently in Jordan, said that water is used for the generation of electricity, but when there is not enough water and a great deal of sunshine, "solar chimneys" are built for generation of energy that is inexhaustible, environmentally sound and could ultimately relieve the drain on natural resources.

"The solar chimney makes use of three well-known physical principles," Dr. Schlaich said, "the greenhouse effect, the chimney and the turbine. A large expanse of land is covered with a glass roof, also called collector roofs. In the centre of this roof is a concrete chimney. When incident solar radiation heats the air under the collector roof, the hot air under the roof rises through the chimney causing an upwind. This is converted into mechanical energy by a turbine and then into electricity using a conventional generator," Dr. Schlaich said. He said that this system, which he dubbed "the water

power plant of the desert" is as expensive as other electricity generating methods but that it is more durable and robust so that in the long run it will become more economical than other energy producing systems.

He also said that because the solar chimney features a simple, low-cost design utilising know-how and materials, namely glass concrete and steel, that are available in third world countries, a high proportion of the costs is accounted for by work that is simple. "This could, like any project, help the local labour market while at the same time help to keep overall costs down," he said.

Dr. Schlaich said that a prototype of this design was built in Spain and proved successful. "With the assistance of the German Federal Ministry for Research and Technology, an experimental facility was developed and built in Manzanares, Spain where the many advantages of this solar chimney were documented by a high degree of availability of the plant and low operating and maintenance costs," he said.

According to Dr. Schlaich, the solar chimney makes use of global radiation, including diffuse radiation when the sky is overcast. "There are also many factors that affect the amount of electricity generated by the solar chimney," he said. "The higher the chimney, the more the electricity that can be generated."

Dr. Schlaich said that the

prospects for Jordan include a 30 megawatt producing solar chimney, which is a moderate size for this order of magnitude. "This is estimated to cost JD 100 million, half of which could be subsidised by the German government," he said.

Dr. Schlaich, who has designed a number of bridges around the world and who has the Munich Olympic Games to his credit, met with members of the Electricity Authority and talked about the prospects for Jordan.

The director of the Rationalisation Department at the Electricity Authority, Rashad Abu Raas, said that before such a project will be adopted to Jordan a study must be undergone to determine the long-term financial advantages for Jordan, but even the study is very expensive to conduct. "It will cost JD one million to do the study and we do not have this money at all," Mr. Abu Raas said. "If money of the study was raised in the form of a fund and the study proved good for Jordan, then the possibility of making such a solar chimney in Jordan may become a reality. Until then, it will remain a good idea that is not financially feasible in Jordan," he said.

Dr. Schlaich presented a paper entitled "Solar Energy Utilisation — Why and How?" at the Jordanian Conference on Civil Engineering at the University of Jordan which ended recently and there he spoke about the solar chimney.

Jordan Times

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Work about to begin

NOW THAT a Royal Decree has been issued to summon Parliament for an extraordinary session starting June 20, the eyes of Jordanians will be focused on the Lower House to gauge just how their elected representatives would deal with the all too important issues that are on their agenda. The list of bills put for the consideration and debate during the extraordinary session is indeed long and formidable. For not only the much awaited draft laws on political parties and the freedom of the press and publications are highlighted by the Royal Decree for debate and endorsement. On the agenda are also many other bills that cover economic, social, environmental and other issues. It is obviously premature to tell whether Parliament will be able to accord all the items on its agenda the necessary attention and scrutiny in view of the relatively short period of time allotted for the session. Clearly, however, there are several subjects that will have to be selected for earlier consideration and adoption on top of which are of course the proposed legislation on the formation of political parties in the country and the draft law governing the future functioning of the press and media in the Kingdom.

In a nationwide speech to the country a few days ago, His Majesty the King called for the consolidation of democracy by widening and deepening its application. There is no better way to attain this objective than to complete the process aiming for the adoption of the draft laws on political parties and freedom of the press. Admittedly the existing law on press and publications has not been strictly observed or vigorously applied by any of the governments since 1989 in anticipation of the new guidelines that can be expected to be much more harmonious with the march towards real democracy in Jordan. Still ours is a modern country on the threshold of entering the 21 century and there can be no alternative to the adoption of the necessary progressive laws to govern its domestic policies. Contemporary Jordan needs to be ruled by laws explicitly articulated in order to leave no opportunity for vagueness or arbitrary application. As for the proposed law on the formation and registration of political parties, the debate surrounding it should go to the heart of the matter as far as democracy is concerned. If there were something basically wrong with the last general elections in late 1989 it was the fact that they were held without the benefit of organised political parties competing against each other. Political parties can and should help the Jordanian electorate to focus on issues and fundamental policy concerns instead of personalities and tribalistic connections. Only through political organisation can the issues affecting Jordanians be identified with any sufficient degree of coherence and objectivity. Besides, Jordan is treaty obligated to have political parties just as it is treaty bound to have appropriate laws on the freedom of the press. Hopefully, therefore, Parliament will conclude the major parts of its work before the extraordinary session ends later on in the year.

Happy Eid to all.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily dwelt on the Great Arab Revolt and army day anniversary paying tribute to the vanguards of the revolt and the ancestors who were instrumental in uniting Arab ranks. But the daily noted that the Great Arab Revolt of 1916 had met enemies from within the Arab ranks themselves, exactly as when the Arab World was confronted by a situation, arising in 1990, when certain Arabs stabbed others in the back and when these traitors sided with the colonial powers against their nation. Today, there are Arabs who are keen on unity and end of divisions among the nation, but we also face Arabs who are keen on consecrating the divisions and who are intent on keeping the Arab Nation in a weak state and an easy prey for the enemy, the paper said. Today, the nation sees certain Arabs who have sold themselves to the devil and are attacking everything human, democratic and just to please the enemies of the nation, added the daily. Today, we in Jordan, the steadfast nation, condemn the continued pillaging of Arab wealth and raise our voice like Sharif Hussein Ibn Ali did earlier this century to condemn those who stand in the path of unity and of liberation from foreign domination, the paper said. Today, said the paper, Jordan reaffirms the principle of no compromise over Arab rights and over Arab pride and national unity.

AL DUSTOUR Wednesday launched a strong attack on Kuwait for allowing its media to unleash a slanderous campaign against Jordan and its people. We were not surprised to hear such hostile and vindictive campaign being levelled on our country from a regime that has sold itself to the foreign and colonial powers and stabbed their nation in the back, said the paper. The Kuwaiti regime does not feel ashamed of its actions and continues to launch hostile campaigns against the steadfast Jordanian people and its leadership at a time when everyone knows that this regime has brought about a catastrophe to the whole Arab Nation, said the daily. Of course, no one would expect from such a regime, which called in foreign forces to protect them from the masses, to act otherwise, but to pursue the course of treachery, added the daily. The Kuwaiti regime, said the paper, has wasted the oil wealth of the Arab Nation, pursued a course of hostile action against the Arab Nation and is now allowing the media in Kuwait to launch a campaign against Jordan, the paper noted. It said that the Kuwaiti regime does not feel ashamed of its actions against Jordan nor of its persecution and inhuman treatment of those Arabs who had built the emirate from scratch over the past four decades. The Kuwaiti regime and the gang of sheikhs in the emirate have now chosen to be the object of history's curse and a stigma in Arab history through their shameful actions and their barbaric treatment of non-Kuwaiti Arabs, said the paper. By such actions, the paper said, the Kuwaiti regime is deepening the wound in the heart of the Arab Nation and causing further disarray within Arab ranks.

Idiot culture of the intellectual masses

By Carl Bernstein

It is now nearly a generation since the drama that began with the Watergate break-in and ended with the resignation of Richard Nixon, a full 20 years in which the American press has been engaged in a strange frenzy of self-congratulation and defensiveness about its performance in the affair and afterwards.

The self-congratulation is not justified; the defensiveness, alas, is. For increasingly the America rendered today in the American media is illusory and delusory — a disfigured, unreal, disconnected from the true context of our lives in covering real American life the media — weekly, daily, hourly — breaks new ground in getting it wrong. The coverage is distorted by celebrity and the worship of celebrity; by the reduction of news to gossip; by sensationalism, which is always a turning away from a society's real condition; and by a political and social discourse that we — the press, the media the politicians, and the people — are turning into a sewer.

Let's go back to Watergate. There is a lesson there, particularly about the press. Twenty years ago, in June 1972, Bob Woodward and I began covering the Watergate story for the Washington Post. At the time of the break-in, there were about 2,000 full-time reporters working in Washington, D.C.

In the first six months afterwards, America's news organisations assigned only 14 of those 2,000 men and women to cover the Watergate story on a full-time basis. And of those 14, only six were assigned to the story in what might be called an "investigative way, that is, to go beyond recording the obvious daily statements and court proceedings, and try to find out exactly what had happened.

Despite some of the mythology that has come to surround "investigative journalism," it is important to remember what we did and did not do in Watergate. For what we did was not, in truth, exotic. Our work in uncovering the story was rooted in the most basic kind of empirical police reporting. We relied more on shoe leather and common sense and respect for the truth than for anything else.

Woodward and I were a couple of guys on the Metro desk assigned to cover what at bottom was still a burglary, so we applied the only reportorial techniques we knew. We knocked on a lot of doors, we asked a lot of questions, we spent a lot of time listening: the same thing good reporters had been doing for years. As local reporters, we had no cover of highly placed sources,

no expense accounts with which to court the powerful by fancy French restaurants. We did our work far from the enchanting world of the rich and the famous and the powerful.

So we worked our way up, interviewing clerks, secretaries, administrative assistants. We met with them outside their offices and at their homes, at night and on weekends. The prosecutors and the FBI interviewed the same people we did, but always in their offices, always in the presence of administration attorneys, never at home, never at night, never away from jobs and intimidation and pressures. Not surprisingly, the FBI and the Justice Department came up with conclusions that were the opposite of our own, choosing not to triangulate key pieces of information, because they had made what the acting FBI director of the day called "a presumption of regularity" about the men around the U.S. president.

"The greatest felony in the news business today is to be behind, or to miss, a big story. So speed and quantity substitute for thoroughness and quality, for accuracy and context."

Even our colleagues in the press didn't take our reporting seriously, until our methodology turned up some extraordinary information: a tale of systematic and illegal political espionage and sabotage directed from the White House, secret funds, wire-tapping, a team of "plumbers" — burglars — working for the president. And then of the cover-up, an obstruction of justice that extended to the president himself.

It is important to remember the Nixon administration's response. It was to make the conduct of the press the issue in Watergate, instead of the conduct of the president and his men. Day after day the Nixon White House issued what we came to call the "non-denial," asked to comment on what we'd reported. Press secretary Ron Ziegler, House Minority leader Jerry Ford, or Senate Republican leader Bob Dole would attack us as purveyors of hearsay, character assassination, and innuendo without ever addressing the specifics of our stories.

Rather than disappearing after Watergate, the Nixonian technique of making the press the issue reached new heights of cleverness and cynicism during the Reagan administration, and it flourishes today. Hence Reagan's statement about the sorry events that ravaged his presidency in the Iran-Contra affair: "What is driving me up the wall is that this wasn't a failure until the press got a tip from that rag in Beirut and began to play it up. This whole thing boils down to a great irresponsibility on the part of the press."

And now in George Bush we have another president obsessed with leaks and secrecy, a president who could not understand why the press considered it news when his men set up a fake dog bust in Lafayette Square across from the White House. "Whose side are you on?" he asked. It was a truly Nixonian question. This contempt for the press, passed on to hundreds of officials who hold public office today, may be the most important and lasting legacy of the Nixon administration.

In retrospect, Mr. Nixon's extraordinary campaign to undermine the credibility of the press succeeded to a remarkable extent, despite all the post-Watergate posturing in our profession. It succeeded in large part because of our own obvious shortcomings. The hard and simple fact is that our reporting has not been good enough. It was not good enough in the Nixon years, it got worse in the Reagan years, and it is no better now. We are arrogant. We have failed to open up our own institutions in the media to the same kind of scrutiny that we demand of other powerful institutions in the society. We are not more forthcoming or gracious in acknowledging error or misjudgment than the congressional miscreants and bureaucratic felons we spend so much time scrutinizing.

The greatest felony in the news business today is to be behind, or to miss, a big story. So speed and quantity substitute for thoroughness and quality, for accuracy and context. The pressure to compete, the fear somebody else will make the splash first, creates a frenzied environment in which a blizzard of information is presented and serious questions may not be raised; and even in those fortunate instances in which such questions are raised (as happened after some of the egregious stories about the Clinton family), no one has done the months of work to sort it out and to answer them properly.

Reporting is not stenography. It is the best obtainable version of the truth. The really significant

trends in journalism have not been toward a commitment to the best and the most complex obtainable version of the truth, not toward building a new journalism based on serious, thoughtful reporting. Those are not the priorities that jump out at the reader of most of our newspapers, and not what a viewer gets when he turns on the news.

"All right, was it really the best sex you ever had?" Those were the words of Diane Sawyer, in an interview of Maria Maples on Prime Time Live, a broadcast of ABC News (where "more Americans get their news" than any other source). Those words marked a new low. For more than 15 years we have been moving away from real journalism toward the creation of a sleazy information culture in which the lines between Oprah and Geraldo and Diane, between the New York Post and Newsday, are too often indistinguishable. In this new culture of journalistic titillation, we teach readers and viewers that the trivial is significant, that the lurid and the loopy are more important than real news. We do not serve our readers and viewers, we pander to them. And we condescend to them, giving what we think they want and what we calculate will sell and boost ratings and readership. Many of them, sadly, seem to justify our condescension, and to kindle at the trash. Still, it is the role of journalists to challenge people, not merely to amuse them.

We are in the process of creating what deserves to be called the idiot culture. Not an idiot subculture, which every society has bubbling beneath the surface and which can provide harmless fun, but the culture itself. For the first time, the weird and the stupid and the coarse are becoming our cultural norm, even our cultural ideal.

I do not mean to attack popular culture. Good journalism is popular, but popular culture that stretches and informs its consumers rather than that which appeals to the ever descending lowest common denominator. If, by popular culture, we mean expressions of thought or feeling that require no work of those who consume them, then decent popular journalism is finished. What is happening today, unfortunately, is that the lowest form of popular culture — lack of information, misinformation, disinformation, and a contempt for the truth or the reality of most people's lives — has overrun real journalism. Today, ordinary Americans are being stuffed with garbage.

This is not about the First

Amendment or free expression. In a free country, we are free for trash, too. But that trash will always find an outlet does not mean we should always furnish it with an outlet. And the great information conglomerates of this country are now in the trash business. We all know pornography when we see it, and it has a right to exist. But we do not all have to be porn publishers; there is hardly a media company in America that has not dipped its toe into the social and political equivalent of the porn business in the past 15 years.

Yes, we have always had a sensational, popular, yellow-tinted press; and we have always had gossip columns. But never before have we had anything like today's situation in which supposedly serious people — I mean the so-called intellectual and social elites of this country — live and die by (and believe) these columns and these shows and millions more rely upon them for their primary sources of information.

"What is happening today, unfortunately, is that the lowest form of popular culture — lack of information, misinformation, disinformation, and a contempt for the truth or the reality of most people's lives — has overrun real journalism."

For the eight years of the Reagan presidency, the press failed to comprehend that Mr. Reagan was a real leader, however asleep at the switch he might have seemed, however shallow his intellect. No leader since FDR (Franklin D. Roosevelt) so changed the American landscape or saw his vision of the country and the world so thoroughly implanted. But in the Reagan years we in the press rarely went outside Washington to look at the relationship between policy and legislation and judicial appointments to see how the administration's policies were affecting the people — the children and the adults and the institutions of America; in education, in the workplace, in the courts, in the black community, in the family pay-check. In our ridicule of Mr. Reagan's rhetoric about the "evil empire," we failed to make the connection between Mr. Reagan's policies and the willingness of Mr. Gorbachev to loosen the vice of communism.

Now that record is becoming

known. We have in fact, missed most of the great stories of our generation, from Iran-Contra to the savings and loan debacle.

The failures of the press have contributed immensely to the emergence of a talk-show nation, in which public discourse is reduced to ranting and raving and posturing. We now have a mainstream press whose news agenda is increasingly influenced by this netherworld. On the day that Nelson Mandela returned to Soweto and the allies of the World War II agreed to the uni-

fication of Germany, the front pages of many "responsible" American newspapers were devoted to the divorce of Donald and Ivana Trump.

Now the apothecosis of this talk-show culture is before us. I refer to Ross Perot, a candidate created and sustained by television, launched on Larry King Live, whose willingness to bluster and to pose is far less in tune with the workings of liberal democracy than with the sumopundits of the TV chat shows, a candidate whose only substantive proposal is to replace representative democracy with a live TV talk show for the entire nation. And this candidate, who has deflected all media scrutiny with shameless assertions of his own ignorance, now leads both parties' candidates in the polls in several states.

Today the most compelling news story in the world is the condition of America. Our political system is in deep crisis, we are witnessing a breakdown of the polity and the community, that has in the past allowed American democracy to build and to progress. The advent of the talk-show nation is a part of this breakdown.

Many current assumptions in America — about race, economics and the fate of our cities — need to be challenged, and we might start with the media. For, next to race, the story of the contemporary American media is the great uncovered story in America today. We need to start asking the same fundamental questions about the press that we do of the other powerful institutions in this society — about who is served, about standards, about self-interest and its eclipse of the public interest and the interest of truth.

The reality is that the media is probably the most powerful of our institutions today; and it is squandering its power and ignoring its obligation. It — or more precisely, we — have abdicated our responsibility, and the consequence of our abdication is the spectacle and the triumph of the idiot culture — The Washington Post.

U.S. immigration agents said to kill, torture Mexicans

By David Haskell
Reuter

WASHINGTON — U.S. border patrol agents kill, torture and sexually abuse illegal Mexican immigrants with impunity, a human rights organisation has charged.

"Beatings, rough physical treatment and racially-motivated verbal abuse are routine" practice of Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) agents along the Mexican border, Americas Watch said.

The INS, while admitting that abuses occur, says they are isolated cases and denies any cover-up.

"We don't claim that everybody in the INS is perfect," said INS Spokesman Rich Kenney. But Americas Watch allegations of unchecked brutality are "a gross generalisation," he said. "Even more serious abuses, including unjustified shootings, torture and sexual abuse, occur. When they do, investigations are almost invariably perfunctory, and the offending agents escape punishment," the New York-based group said in a report.

INS cover-ups are also frequent, the report says. And the response of President George Bush's administration to complaints is "as defensive and unyielding" as that of the most abusive regimes in the world, the 80-page document said.

The report urges U.S. authorities to give a more humane treatment to the thousands of Mexicans that every day attempt to cross illegally into the United States.

It said that since 1980, INS agents have shot dozens of people along the 3,200-kilometre border, killing at least 11 and permanently disabling at least 10.

"We work for the people of the U.S. we try to do a good job. There will be cases in which

individuals will act irresponsibly. In cases like that we do our best to correct the problem," Mr. Kenney said.

The report mentioned several individual cases of sexual abuse, torture and killing.

Examples include the shooting to death through the border fence of 12-year-old Humberto Carrillo Estrada in April 1985.

Carrillo was shot while running towards the fence from the Mexican side in an attempt to come to the aid of his 15-year-old brother, who was caught by three INS agents and beaten after jumping onto U.S. territory.

Patrol Agent Edward Cole, who shot Carrillo to death, "was cleared of all wrongdoing by the INS," Americas Watch said.

On February 26, 1988, another youth, 17-year-old Ismael Ramirez, died of a skull fracture after Agent Michael Lewis chased him on foot during an illegal-immigrants raid in Madera, California, lifted him in the air and threw him onto the pavement.

Lewis, who had a record of serious abuses of authority, was not indicted. Rather, in January 1989 he was transferred to Florida and promoted, Americas Watch said.

The sexual abuse chapter includes the case of a 19-year-old woman who alleged that during a raid on an immigrant labour camp on September 12, 1990, she was taken aside by a border agent who told her that he was conducting a search for drugs. He ordered her to pull down her pants and inserted a finger into her vagina for several minutes.

She pressed charges and eventually got damage compensation. But Americas Watch said that although sexual abuse is considered rampant in the border area, victims usually refuse legal help for fear of deportation or "retaliatory criminal charges."

U.S. Congress, Pentagon square off over troops abroad

By Charles Aldinger
Reuter

WASHINGTON — With the Soviet threat gone and the U.S. government struggling to cut costs in a wide-open election year, Congress and the Pentagon are girding for battle over the high price of American troops in far-flung bases.

The hot political summer began last week with the House of Representatives voting to slash the U.S. military presence abroad by 40 per cent unless other allies follow Japan's lead and pay more of the bill.

There are now some 355,000 U.S. troops at overseas bases. The house plan would cut the total to 228,000 in three years, with the number in Europe reduced from 235,000 to 100,000.

If the cuts, far deeper than those already planned by the defence department, became law over a possible veto by President George Bush, they would require the military to save \$3.5 billion in 1993 alone by bringing thousands of soldiers home.

The house also voted 396-9 to approve a proposal that would force Mr. Bush to negotiate agreements for Western Europe and South Korea to pay up to 70 per cent of the cost of keeping U.S. troops, as Japan already does.

The Senate may not approve such harsh steps, but analysts say the house backing from even conservative Republicans of Mr. Bush's own party is a sign of the times.

The experts also caution that conflicting pressure over economic and military needs could thwart coherent decisions on where to leave forces and settlement of the military budget questions in general.

"Chaos is not too strong a word to describe the problem," said Analyst Roger Smith of the Harvard Centre for International Affairs in Cambridge, Mas-



sachusetts.

"Congress, which is bent to domestic concerns, doesn't trust the military. And the military certainly doesn't trust Congress. Everybody knows there can be a decrease in troop deployment, but you can't bully other countries."

Mr. Smith and other analysts said that while deeper troop cuts might be in store for Europe, they doubted major cuts would be made over the next three years from the 45,000 U.S. troops in Japan and 39,000 in Korea.

"There are China and North Korea still to contend with at a time when we have lost our bases in the Philippines," said Helmut Sonnenfeldt of the private Brookings Institution.

"But a major problem over the Atlantic is that Europe's defence pocketbook is also shrinking," he said. "While we can make some deep cuts there, a visible pre-

sence is needed to project influence as a United Europe gathers itself after the cold war."

Former U.S. Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci told reporters that Congress could further put off allies if it rejects bids by foreign firms to buy financially shaky U.S. defence companies.

France's Thomson-CSF is now involved in a controversial bid to buy troubled LTV Corp's missile division.

But members of Congress see the U.S. budget crunch in more simple terms of jobs and votes in their home districts.

"It's time to take care of America — our people, our jobs," Democratic Representative Barbara Boxer of California said.

Mr. Boxer, nominated to compete for a Senate seat in the fall, said more money was needed at home to refuel the stagnant economy and rebuild a crumbling industrial infrastructure strug-

gling against Asian and European competition.

Representative Butler Derrick, a Democrat, said U.S. troops in Europe, South Korea and Japan cost \$25 billion last year. House officials added that allies, primarily Japan, paid about \$3.5 billion of that total.

"The collapse of the Soviet Union, a U.S. budget deficit of \$400 billion, and the fact that we are funding the defence of nations thriving as our economic competitors make it evident that our allies must carry a greater portion of the cost of their own defence," Mr. Derrick said.

Defence Secretary Dick Cheney, reminding critics that the United States was not ready for World War II or the Korean and Vietnam wars because of poorly handled defence cuts, opposes extensive troop reductions.

Weekender



Diana — Britain's jewel in the crown

By Peter Miller
Reuter

LONDON — Lady Diana Spencer became the jewel in the crown of the house of Windsor when she married Prince Charles at a glittering pageant a decade ago.

But the fairy-tale marriage was exposed to the ceaseless glare of publicity and in the years that followed there was talk of rough patches and Princess Diana trapped in a gilded cage of monarchy.

From a shy nursery teacher of 20, Princess Diana had to assume the cool assurance as Britain's future queen with Prince Charles, 12 years her senior, the king-in-waiting.

There was gossip of royal rifts but nothing as specific and spectacular in its allegations as Andrew Morton's "Diana — Her True Story", excerpts of which appeared in the Sunday Times at the weekend.

Only rarely do the royals let their emotions show in public and discretion among Prince Charles and Princess Diana's friends, courtiers and servants was total.

Reporters, eager to feed their readers' appetites for news and royal gossip about the princess, have in the past spun a passing incident, with the help of speculation and debate, into a week-long saga.

But Mr. Morton's allegations that Princess "Diana tried to kill herself five times because of her marriage have brought royal-media relations to an all-time low.

There had been signs that Princess Diana was highly-strung.

In the early days she burst into tears when photographers besieged her as she watched her fiancé compete in a polo match.

And there was always talk of differences.

Stephen Barry, Prince Charles's valet for 12 years, once said in an interview that the future king and his loving wife were "as different as chalk and cheese."

Their two sons — Prince William, born in 1982, and Prince Henry, known as Harry, born two years later — were described by Mr. Barry as "the glue that keeps this marriage together."

Early on, Prince Charles was "besotted" with Princess Diana and could see no wrong in the distant cousin that he had finally chosen.

"I'm amazed that she's been brave enough to take me on," he told a television interviewer.

Princess Diana said with affecting simplicity that she and Prince Charles were in love — but she left a note for her former flatmates saying: "For God's sake, ring me up. I'm going to need you."

Friends said Princess Diana, child of a broken marriage, was distressed by public discussion of her status as a virgin before the marriage.

Mr. Morton charts her difficult pregnancies in his book.

When the princess fainted

in Vancouver during a visit to Canada in May 1986, papers speculated about her state of health and about whether dieting was to blame.

The book says she suffers from the thinner's illness bulimia nervosa. Sufferers starve themselves, then gorge on food which is followed by self-induced vomiting.

According to the British press, the marriage went through two rough patches, one in 1987 and another in 1991.

The prince, royal by birth and upbringing, was said to be jealous of the way his wife had taken to her new role and become a star to eclipse all others in the family.

However, the couple defied the gossips and doom-mongers. Their marriage survived, sustained by a strong sense of duty towards their children and the nation.

"People expect a great deal of us I think, and I am always conscious — I'm sure you are too — of not wanting to let people down, not wanting to let this country down," Prince Charles said when the couple were interviewed together in 1985.

But the prince was reported to suffer depression over his role of being a constant stand-in for his mother.

Biographer Anthony Holden wrote of Prince Charles that he sometimes seemed a "complex, perhaps immature, at times lonely and confused figure trying to understand his times."

A star is born in Fayed

By Katia Sabet

FAYED, Egypt — In a luxury villa in this chic vacation resort on the Suez Canal, Egyptian movie director Hossameddine Moustapha is shooting his latest film, "The Bulldozer".

The location has been carefully selected, Fayed, with its saltwater lake, palms and exclusive holiday homes, is the new playground of the Egyptian well-to-do. Most houses have a private jetty for yachts and speedboats, a covered swimming pool, tennis courts and a six-car garage. It is, says Mr. Moustapha, the perfect backdrop to the psychological thriller he is filming with his new discovery and leading lady, Sherine Seif Al Nasr.

In launching the young Ms. Al Nasr, Mr. Moustapha is breaking with Egyptian cinematic tradition. Ms. Al Nasr has never attended film or drama school and is not a member of Egypt's Dramatic Arts Institute, through which most aspiring actors and actresses have to pass to break into the movie world.

The daughter of a well-established Egyptian lawyer, Ms. Al Nasr was planning a career in the legal profession before Mr. Moustapha spotted her. Mr. Moustapha says he was struck by her looks and her personality, which convinced him she had moviestar potential.

"I first saw Sherine at a reception," said the famous Egyptian movie director. "I immediately sensed that she had it in her to become an actress, a new star for our cinema, which is so badly in need of fresh talent."

"Sherine has a strong personality," he added. "She has an imposing presence. When I proposed that she try the cinema, she confessed that she had always wanted to become an actress, but her family background — she is the daughter of a well-known business lawyer — meant that it was expected of her to follow a career in law."

Ms. Al Nasr is still pursuing her law studies, but for the past year or so she has also been studying acting with her mentor. "I trained her and taught her the art (of acting) for months..." said Mr. Moustapha. "Then, one day, I was offered the script for 'The Bulldozer'. I saw that the female role was tailor-made for Sherine. It called for beauty, character and innocence."

Mr. Moustapha's latest movie is an adaptation of an American novel; a U.S. film was also made of the book, starring Anthony Quinn. The subject is just the sort Mr. Moustapha enjoys most — a mixture of action, passion and violence. The drama, which takes place entirely in the villa at Fayed, involves three protagonists — a wealthy mafioso-type, his young wife and his bodyguard. These are people one is unlikely to meet in everyday life, but that is just how Mr. Moustapha likes his characters.

As a director, Mr. Moustapha is hard to define. In the



Newly discovered actress Sherine Seif Al Nasr is filming "The Bulldozer" with veteran actor-producer and Kung Fu expert Youssef Mansour. (WNL)

Middle East, he is known as the king of action movies, but he is much more. "By action, I don't just mean movement, the fight, the shooting and the punches," he said. "Action can also exist in the mind... A film can have people sitting on the edge of their seats without showing a single fight."

Born in Port Said in the early 1960s, Mr. Moustapha completed his studies at Southern California University in the U.S. After graduating, he went to Hollywood, where he worked for six months at Paramount Studios, helping to direct a movie that was to make film history — "The Greatest Show on Earth."

Mr. Moustapha continued training in London, went back to the U.S. to work with some of the biggest names in the movie industry and finally returned to Egypt to work with Howard Hawks, who was directing "The Land of the Pharaohs." Later, he helped direct the legendary Cecil B. De Mille epic, "The Ten Commandments."

The Egyptian moviemaker made his debut as a solo director with "Kefaya ya ain," which literally translates as "Enough, My Eyes." It starred Magda, Kamal Al Chennawi and Mahmoud Al Meligi, a trio who made many films together in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

"When I first started out, I tried my hand at everything," recalls Mr. Moustapha. "There is no genre that I did not have a go at — romanticism, action movies, historical films, detective stories, suspense films and war movies. I think I can finally say, after a full career, that I prefer very strong subjects based on a solid novel or a powerful scenario."

Now one of Egypt's foremost directors, Mr. Moustapha nevertheless retains a reputation as a nonconformist, both in the type of movies he chooses to make and in his attitude towards the cinema industry in general. He is critical of the Egyptian system, which, he says, favours a handful of established actors and actresses and does nothing to encourage new talent.

"Egyptian cinema is in a state of decline," he said. "It's been in decline for about 50 years. One of the main reasons is... not having new stars on the horizon. We cannot go on making 80 movies a year using the same three or four actors and actresses. The producers and distributors are totally lacking in what I would describe as creative spirit. They do nothing to create new stars. They are too scared to take a risk with a new face."

Mr. Moustapha is not afraid of taking that risk, even though his reputation may be on the line by casting the unknown Ms. Al Nasr in "Bulldozer." If past experiences hold true, the odds are not in Ms. Al Nasr's favour. In recent years, only two actors have beat the tightly controlled world of Egyptian cinema and become stars without working their way through normal channels.

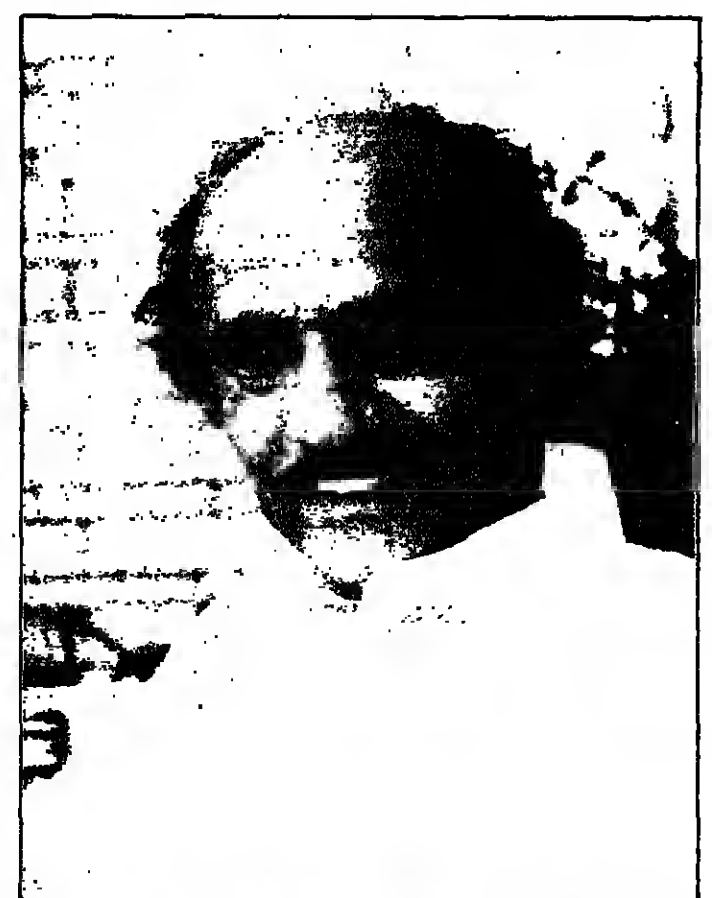
Mahmoud Abdul Aziz got his big chance when movie critic Rafik Al Sabban proposed his name to producer Ramses Naguib, who was looking for a replacement for an actor who walked off the set during filming of "Hatta Akher Al Omr" (Until Death). Aziz went on to become the Refaat Al Hajaan of the famous comic strip by the same name, one of the best-loved stars in the Middle East. More recently, Mahmoud Hemida had a similar stroke of luck, rising to stardom almost overnight and making no fewer than 30 movies in two years.

But those are rare cases, and for women the chances of

a lucky break are even slimmer. Aspiring Egyptian actresses have a hard time making a name for themselves. The usual route is long and arduous, starting with very small roles, usually in television. When they do finally make it, their rise to fame is not always in direct proportion to their talent.

Ms. Al Nasr is luckier than most. As well as the backing of Mr. Moustapha, she has the blessing of the movie's producer and leading actor, Youssef Mansour, one of the Egyptian cinema's most popular faces at the moment. Currently on his fifth movie, the young actor-producer is also kung-fu champion of

Egypt. The character for which he is best known — a tough defender of justice and champion of the oppressed — has been highly successful, and Mr. Mansour can do no wrong in the public's eyes. Mr. Mansour did not hesitate a moment when he saw Ms. Al Nasr audition for the role. "People were astonished that my production company would make a movie with an unknown..." he said, "but this unknown was... the person best suited for the role. And in any case, if we continue with this over-cautious attitude, we will be limiting our choice of stars and... reducing our creative possibilities" — World News Link.



Egyptian filmmaker Hossameddine Moustapha has a reputation for action-packed movies. His last one has the Fayed oasis as a background. (WNL)

Street sweeper stars in South African Pygmalion

By Brendan Boyle
Reuter

CAPE TOWN — A black street sweeper, an 80-year-old widow and a professor of music are playing out a South African Pygmalion that could have a fairy tale ending.

The story opened in 1989 with James Bhemjee, classified coloured (mixed race) under apartheid, singing Afrikaner folk songs and dreaming of fame as he pushed his broom through

the streets of Mowbray, a middle-income white suburb of Cape Town.

"It's very special to me to sing. I sing solos in the church choir and it's practice for me to sing and sweep in the streets," Bhemjee, 26, said in an interview.

"I don't want to be a good tenor. I want to be the best tenor in the world. No South African has ever been that, and I want to be the first."

Raised from the age of five by a foster mother in the poverty-stricken coloured

township of Kalksteentfontein, Bhemjee left school at 14 to work for the city council as a sweeper.

The streets were his stage because there was nowhere to practise at home with his foster mother and 12 other children.

"People think it's the radio and they come and talk to me sometimes. Some people complain, but not too many," he said.

Enter the silver-haired fairy godmother, Angelique Fuhr, who followed the

den notes to her garden gate and found Bhemjee scooping dirt into his blue municipal garbage bag.

"I thought an opera singer had moved into the street, but when I got to the gate I saw James with his broom and bag singing at the top of his voice. It was wonderful," she said.

With financial help from a local advertising agency, Fuhr arranged a weekly singing lesson with a top voice teacher and persuaded Bhemjee's employers to take

him off the sweeping detail as much as possible, because the dust could damage his voice.

Fuhr, who comes from a musical family, kept in close touch with Bhemjee and act two of their story opened in January with an audition at the University of Cape Town's Opera School before a panel including the director, Professor Angelo Gobato.

Bhemjee was admitted on a special scholarship to a class of 12 white students, all far younger, richer and better

educated, for a four-year course. He continues to work part-time for the council's Cleansing Department.

"The raw material is a very exciting voice. His lack of education is a strong handicap, but his voice is excellent," Prof. Gobato said. "It's going to take a lot of motivation and a lot of hard work. It's impossible to predict the outcome."

He said Bhemjee, who has seen only one opera and rarely reads, would have to study

music, languages and the history of music and opera in preparation for a singing career.

"We want to get James ready to perform and we will give him as much stage experience as we can as soon as we can," he said.

Fuhr set up a trust fund to finance Bhemjee's education, to pay for rooms at the university and to compensate his family for the loss of his weekly wage of 232 rand (\$82), which he routinely handed noopened to his foster

mother.

Said Bhemjee: "I feel very excited. I will see new things and know new things. I must just go to the university and get my mind and my body in line with the work."

Act three is likely to begin when Bhemjee makes his debut on the stage of the university's Baxter Theatre. He hopes it will end abroad.

"My ambition is to go and sing overseas in Vienna," he said. "That's in America, isn't it?"

Entertainment at its finest

By Maha Addasi

IS IT really worth it to entertain?

You could be hosting a dinner party for as few as four or as many as 20 and throughout the evening you would be dodging some stressful situations as they invariably pop up. These situations might include burning the roast, or breaking the serving dish just after filling it, mixing up the drinks, or even worse than that having one of the guests come into the kitchen and attempt to help you.

Just a little hint here. If you are holding a lunch or dinner party and a guest comes into the kitchen to help, that guest is most probably hungry and is not wholeheartedly there to help. That guest is really snooping to find out what is cooking.

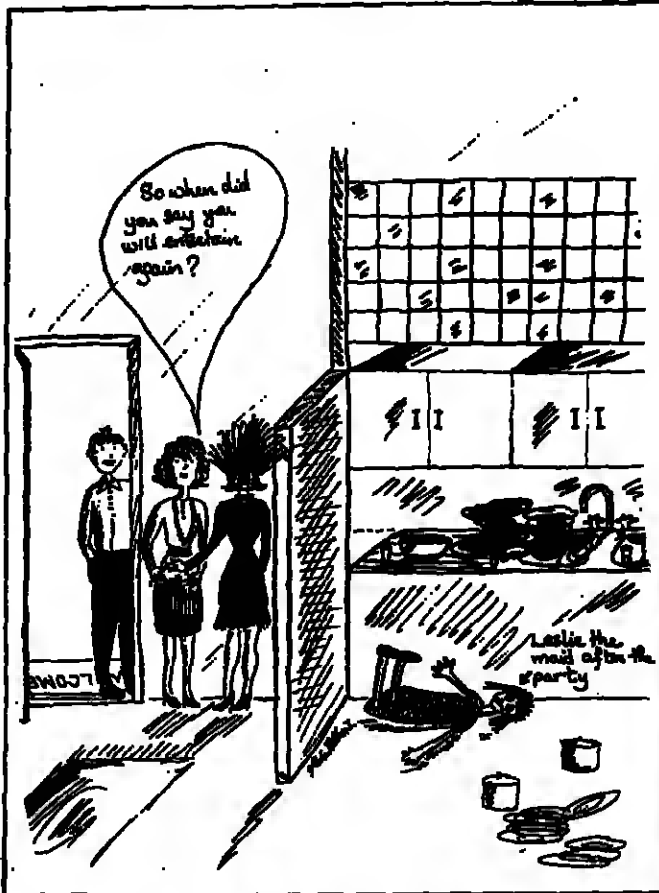
How you can pinpoint those guests is by the way they try to "help." You could be up to your nose with work and that "helpful" guest will come up with a typical question like, "where does this go?" while he or she holds up a tissue and so nicely tries to locate the trash can. Of course, you have an answer ready, but being the decent host that you are, and not wanting to be rude you force on a smile and point to the cupboard concealing the garbage container.

Or: "Where are the glasses?" So that instead of helping you they are creating hazardous situations where you and the maid are exchanging a knowing look on rolling your eyes and running around pointing out cupboards around the kitchen as the rice turns a "lovely" chestnut colour.

I do not know about you, but scenarios such as these would make me scream, charge out of the kitchen and get onto the next plane out of town. More realistically though, I would be more tempted to stop entertaining altogether. But I'm not everyone, and I think that most people have not done this because they do not want to be labelled "social recluses" and because they all want to live to see the more advanced stages of the "social event." Such as taking out the drinks for each guest. You would give the maid, who is also exhausted from preparing for the event, the order and ask her to call you when they are ready. When she does she informs you that there is one soft-drink short. So thinking fast you pour some water into a glass and present it to your husband as though it were a drink. This should work, and no one would be the wiser. But no. Your husband, after tasting his drink and seeing that it is not exactly what he requested alerts you just in case you did not know, that the drink is plain water, and creates yet another embarrassing moment.

After the drinks, the relay begins, when you, the maid and all the female guests present start to take out the surviving dishes to the main table. You would most probably be holding your breath, and you have every right to because it is not unusual that two of your "helpers" would bump into each other and drop something.

Sometimes things go well and even dessert is presented



"accident free." Most often at this stage of the event the hostess and her real helper, the maid, are just about ready to jump from the top floor of a very high building. But for them, the night is still young. They still have the coffee to make and the kitchen to clean up afterwards.

One of the maids I came across was smarter. She would start to mop the floor just before the coffee was requested. That way she could deter guests from attempting to enter the kitchen as they could very possibly skid if they tried going in.

Eventually after coffee is served, the hostess is waiting for any indication that the guests are finally leaving before she can start to relax. People thank her, forgetting the poor maid "backstage" who did so much.

When they finally do the hostess becomes normal again. Her taste-buds are reactivated, her breathing becomes regular, and for the first time in hours she is de-stressed. Only one sense remains numb, and that is common sense. Because while making the final touches in the kitchen, the hostess and the maid both contemplate to entertain or not to entertain again. Neither one has a definite "no" for an answer!

Take our oil, money, souls; take all

By Sa'ad G. Hattar

ENVIRONMENT pollution is a crucial issue that all nations should tackle in order to protect ourselves and curtail the depletion of natural resources on mother earth.

Everybody should join efforts in a bid to render our "ravaged" planet a better place for mankind. That is why we greatly rejoice when we heard about the Western countries' "advice" for oil-producing countries to step up efforts towards a pollution-free globe.

Yes, we agree with the Western proposal, which asked to levy a ten-dollar fee on each oil barrel for the protection of the environment in a fast-decaying planet.

In fact, we would rather suggest raising the amount deducted to \$3 or say, \$18 per barrel, which is actually the cost of a barrel in a spot market.

After all, it would be true to traditional "Arab generosity" not to charge any money in return for the Arab oil, especially since it is affecting the environment.

Even more, Arabs should be kind enough to cover their oil freight expenses to "first world" destinations a measure,

which albeit costly, may contribute to the westerners' campaigns to fight pollution and safeguard their "non-polluted" environment.

And after all the "backs" we spent on the Gulf war, I think we should do more for the West. The funds, uncountable billions spent on destroying the region and even more spent on reconstruction, may not be enough. So we have to pitch in.

The best way of "helping" the West protect the environment, I believe, is to unload our oil in their refineries and cover the retail expenses of oil distribution in those countries. And, as I think we would still fall short of the expectations, in the long run, Arabs should pick up the tab for patching up the ozone layer, torn by the Western-with-Arab-oil-originated "smog". And to take things to a good end, they should also cover the expenses for salvaging an environment filled with toxic materials and chemical waste, mostly generated by Western plants.

Hubble telescope captures new image of possible black hole

By Paul Racer
By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A giant X may mark the location of a black hole in the centre of a celestial object commonly called the whirlpool galaxy, an astronomer reports.

Holland Ford, a Johns Hopkins University and Space Telescope Science Institute astronomer, said images captured by the Hubble space telescope show a distinct X silhouetted against the nucleus, or centre, of a spiral galaxy known formally as M51.

"The X is due to absorption by dust and marks the exact position of the nuclear black hole," Dr. Ford said in an interview.

The astronomer said the structure of dust, gas and

would resemble two ice cream cones and a doughnut. As seen from the orbiting space telescope, the sharp points of the two cones appear to be placed into the hole of the doughnut from opposite sides, said Dr. Ford.

From earth, he said, the doughnut is seen edge-on and the black hole would be at the very centre. In the giant X, said Dr. Ford, the doughnut would be one arm, but just what causes the second arm of the X is uncertain.

A heavy accumulation of dust obscures the view of light or radiation from within the doughnut, or torus, surrounding the black hole, thus causing the doughnut to appear as a dark bar. Intense radiation however is letting

tre, forming the two cone-shaped pathways on either side of the doughnut. This radiation is bright in both visible and radio frequencies, said Dr. Ford.

M51 is located about 20 million light years away and is one of the brightest galaxies in the spring sky. The galaxy is about a third of the width of the full moon and in this season sets early in the evening in the northern sky, Dr. Ford said. M51 is a spiral galaxy about the size and shape of the Milky Way, which includes the sun, and was formally recorded in star books kept by astronomers in the 1800s.

The object became known as the whirlpool galaxy, he said, because of the spiral shape detected by early tele-

Dr. Ford said the images of M51 give the clearest picture yet of the torus of dust and gas that surround a black hole.

A black hole is a concentration of matter so dense that it creates a gravitational field powerful enough to prevent even light from escaping. The gravitational and frictional forces set up by the black hole is thought to heat gas and dust around the hole. This can give off light and radiation that can be detected.

A light year is the distance that light will travel in a vacuum in one year, about 6 trillion miles (9.6 trillion kilometres).

Dr. Ford reported on his findings at a meeting in Columbus, Ohio, of the Amer-

Yellow cab

By E. Yaghi

IT IS time to pay tribute to certain species of yellow cab drivers. Certainly not all drivers fit into the classifications listed below for they are considered to be the conscientious fellows that every tired and weary passenger appreciates. However, the following is a list with the intent to help identify the kind that tend to get on most people's nerves.

Speedy

Now Speedy usually is a younger driver, but every once in a while, an elderly Speedy may be seen who tries to show off his skills or lack of them by recklessly tearing down highways with an arrogant air of self-assurance accompanied by a wicked and boyish smile on his face while other drivers yell curses at him. Passengers in Speedy's taxi can be seen clutching their seats in fear of losing their lives.

Turtle

Turtle is the opposite of Speedy. He may be young and just trying to make extra money by letting his car crawl along at the rate of 10kph, or he may be elderly with retarding reflexes and dimming vision who steers his vehicle down the middle of the road hugging the steering. At any rate, Turtle goes slower than the normal flow of traffic to the exasperation of other motorists and if he plays his cards right, will have ticked up a sizeable amount of money on his metre by the time he drops his passenger off.

The Music Man

The Music Man has an ear for melody and wants to share his talents and hobby with all the world. He turns his radio up at full blast in order for all citizens within a 100 kilometre range to benefit from his special taste of musical selections. He usually has his "Mega" stereo transmitters hooked up in the rear of his car so that his passengers can enjoy in full the blare of whatever he chooses to play. Often, Music Man sings along with his selections in an off-key crooning voice and beats his steering wheel in rhythm to the music. If the passenger is really lucky, the Music Man will also be "slightly drunk," a state which definitely enhances his driving performance and also his vocal abilities. He can be seen scraping his car against the edges of curbs and speeding through red traffic lights. Whenever he makes a near accident to the shock and disgust of other drivers and the horror of his victim, he affixes an evil little grin and wears a naughty twinkle in his eye. Of course, he can never hear his passenger speak because his music is going full blast so he most often drives beyond his traveller's destination whereupon the by now deaf and scared out of his wits victim is happy to walk the half kilometre back to wherever he or she wanted to go.

Conversationalist

Then there's Gabby. He's the kind who keeps trying to make "friendly" conversation of any kind with his passenger who normally just wants to reach his destination in comparative health and silence. Gabby usually has half an eye on the road and the other one and a half on his victim and frequently ends up telling his whole life story on the way and becomes very disappointed when his passenger has to leave so soon.

Busy

One of the best kinds of drivers is Busy. He drives

around in an empty cab stopping for nobody and taking no one anywhere. In all sorts of weather, pouring rain, sweeping snows, baking, sweltering sun, he shakes his head negatively as the desperate masses signal him to stop. But Busy never stops, no, not him! He contemptuously sticks up his nose in scornful disgust and glares at those inferior beings who dare imagine that he just might feel sorry for them and give them a lift. Surely, if his own mother needed a ride, he would refuse and not give her one, for he is much too Busy!

Greedy

Greedy is the kind who turns his metre to 25 even before his unlucky passenger enters the car. He tries to take the longest way around (who says the shortest distance between two points is a straight line?) any proposed destination and at last when that destination is arrived at, overcharges even more to the wailing protest of his customer who states, "But the metre says only..." to which he firmly replies, "Aha, but I've brought you all the way from... (where, the moon?)."

The Flirt

The flirt never takes old women in his cab. Old of course, refers to anyone over 35 and married. He ignores all those poor women who puff and pant as they lug sacks of goods and screeches past them to pick up that young lass who most cleverly has herself arranged in such a fashion that no sane driver would pass her by.

Dare Devil

Dare Devil isn't afraid of death. In fact, he challenges it. He can be seen driving in and out of traffic and entering all sorts of dangerous situations to the petrification of his passenger. He ignores traffic signs, lights, intersections, and so forth unless he happens to see a traffic cop and then and only then will he be on his best behaviour. When at last his passenger tries to dizzily and shakily climb out of the taxi, he starts to take off even before the cab door has been properly shut in which case he might be seen dragging his victim along with him outside the car caught on the car door.

Peacock

Peacock is very vain and therefore tries to keep three fourths of his vision on his rear view-mirror so he can be sure that not one precious little hair on his head is out of place. His comb is where the old timers' guns used to be and at the slightest disturbance draws his weapon like a true sharp-shooter to tame that unruly strand of greased down hair that escaped.

At each and every intersection he readjusts his mirror to look at himself and then proceeds to inspect his clothes: are they pressed just right, are they baggy enough, and so on. He's so preoccupied with his appearance that he grudgingly and reluctantly transports anyone at all.

These are but a few of the different types of drivers. Anyone who dares think about riding with the aforementioned has to be either very brave or very desperate and have no other choice. I, myself, have been seriously thinking of buying my own car and even risking my own driving after having hectic and harrowing experiences with some yellow cabs. At any rate, whoever you are, yellow cab driver or not, drive carefully and always remember, the life you save may be your own, or mine, or ours!

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, 11 June, Film.

8:30 The Simpson

Homer will buy a pony for his daughter Lisa.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie of the Week

Near Mrs.

Starring: Judge Reinhold and Casey Siemaszko.

Friday, 12 June

8:30 Coach

The Pine Apple Bowl

After twenty years, Hayden prepares to win a major football match.

9:10 Football.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Inspector Morse

The Wolvercote Tongue.

A group of rich American tourists on a tour in England, many deaths occur and inspector Morse investigates to get to the bottom of the case.

Saturday, 13 June

8:30 Super Bloopers.

9:00 Encounter

9:30 Feature Film

Reds

10:00 News In English

10:20 A Tale Of Two Cities

Sunday, 14 June

8:30 Wings

9:10 Football

10:00 News In English

10:20 Law And Order

Asylum

A killer is acquitted on a technicality but the prosecutor asks for a retrial.

Monday, 15 June

8:30 Close To Home

Double Date

Kate and her brother arranged a double date for the father

9:10 Football

Netherlands and Russia

10:00 News In English

10:20 Gold

Episode 7

Johnny and his wife decided to live in the big city

Tuesday, 16 June, 92

8:30 Acropolis Now

Ep. 2 The Proxy Blues.

9:10 Palace Guard

10:00 News In English

10:20 A Tale Of Two Cities



The Palace Guard: Tuesday at 9:10

Knight Without Armour

Starring: Marlen Dietrich and Robert Donat.

The Russian countess faces trouble during the Russian Revolution until she leaves Russia for good

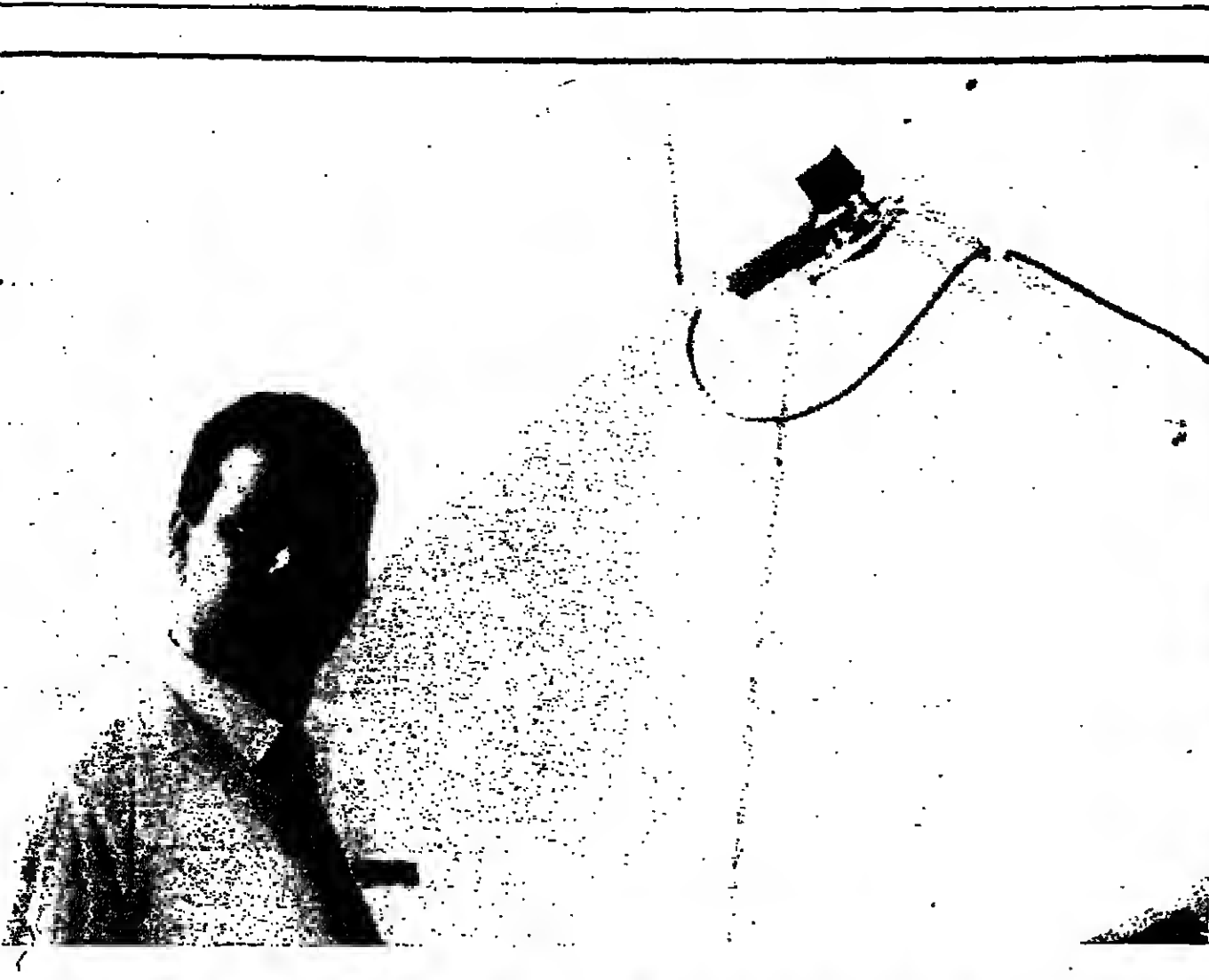
Wednesday, 17 June

8:30 Saved By The Bell

9:10 Football

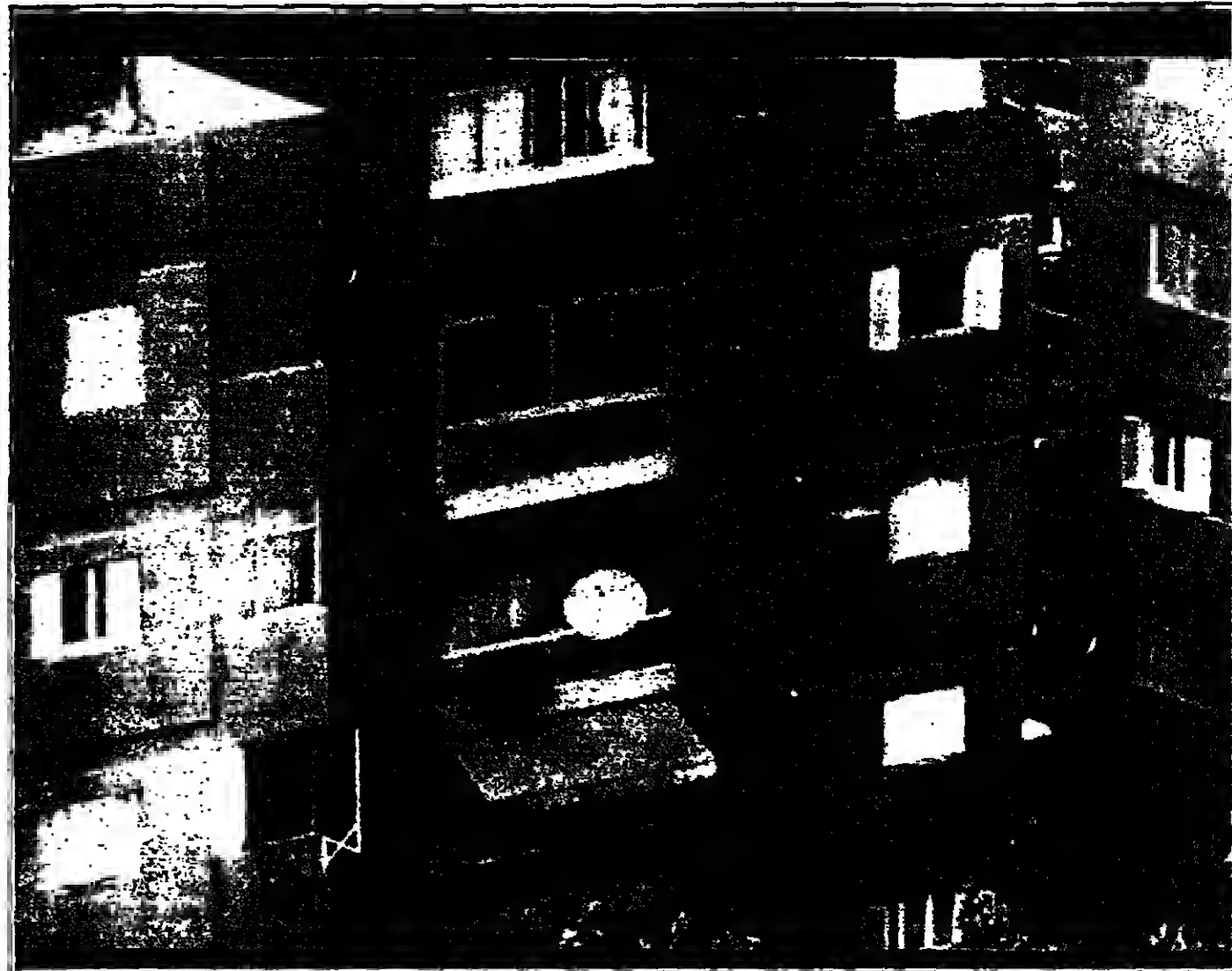
10:00 News In English

10:20 A Tale Of Two Cities



Generally larger than the satellite dishes used in Europe or America, the dishes sold in

Egypt bring in numerous international television channels. (WNL)



It seems that every day new satellite dishes appear on the balconies and rooftops of

Egypt's capital. (WNL)

Satellite dishes blooming in Cairo

CAIRO, Egypt (WNL) — Satellite dishes are becoming increasingly common on the roofs and terraces of Cairo's residential areas, providing well-off residents with a multilingual selection of foreign news, films, music videos — and a taste of the Western view of the world. Their popularity is spreading, but not all Egyptians are converts.

According to Ossama Al Manquabadi, a young engineer who has set up a company specialising in high-quality dish installation, the best received channels — and the most popular — are from European countries through Eutelsat satellites. Unlike individual owners whose satellite dishes can automatically rotate in the direction of the

channel they wish to watch, tenants or co-owners who install a communal dish agree on which satellite to receive and the dish remains fixed in one direction, says Mr. Al Manquabadi. Most choose Superchannel, a British channel with news, films and music videos. TV5, a French language channel with programmes from France, Switzerland, Canada and Belgium, comes second. Some ask for a second dish to receive the Israeli satellite and its two channels because they show many U.S. films with Arabic subtitles.

"The tendency is clear," says Mr. Al Manquabadi. "Apart from a few wealthy clients, people share one or more satellite dishes with their neighbours. And they

generally realise they were right to do so — no one really takes advantage of the fifty-plus channels available with a private dish; you always end up watching the same five or six."

Dishes are expensive — about \$7,000 for a larger dish, which can pick up two wavelengths with different channels. Egyptian television's director of technical services, Mohammad Zaatar, says: "In the West, satellite dishes are four to 60 centimetres wide because transmissions are aimed at these regions and are, therefore, closer and more powerful. We are in a peripheral region and need larger dishes — 1.2 to 2.40 meters wide — to get the same quality recep-

tion." Initially, Egyptians were suspicious of foreign programmes. Many feared the satellites would broadcast pornographic films all the time. "I didn't get a dish," says Mustapha Reda, an engineer with four teenage children, "because I feared the impact of these programmes on our traditions and moral values. Having watched a few programmes at friends' homes, I realised that most avoided offending our sensibilities, which could create rejection. But there is still the nudity problem." Although nudity does not shock Europeans or sub-Saharan Africans, it is unacceptable in most Islamic countries. Mr. Reda admits that the only nudes he saw were on sci-

entific programmes. Above all, satellite dishes are windows on the world, particularly on current affairs. Those who follow satellite broadcast news agree that they have gained a greater understanding of political realities. Says Faisal Abdul Nabi, a multilingual lawyer: "Being able to follow political news in many languages has given me a global view of international affairs. It started last year with CNN's 24-hour coverage of the Gulf war. But CNN gave only its own point of view. Having access to British, French, Arab and Israeli versions of the same events is giving me more distance and interesting insights." Yet, Mr. Abdul Nabi does not find the outcome for the

Third World encouraging. "Except for a few rare cases," says Mr. Abdul Nabi, "I have noticed that our problems are vaguely perceived by the Western media. Even worse, I sometimes notice biases and voluntary omissions. Apart from the French channel, which sometimes gets closer to the truth, most other channels ignore press agency reports on, for instance, the conditions in the Israeli-occupied territories or the political situation Iraq was left in by the West and do not mention the real consequences of the Libyan embargo on the economies of all Arab countries." Mr. Abdul Nabi believes the Libyan affair has been presented by the Western media with little considera-

tion for the truth: "It was completely exploited to fuel public indignation at the bombings of the Pan Am and French planes. No one mentioned that the demand for the extradition of the two Libyan nationals was illegal. None of the similar cases — the shooting down of Libyan planes or the bombing of Tripoli ordered by Reagan — were referred to. Terrorism is perceived as such only when it hits Western targets. When it's the other way round, it is well-deserved retaliation." There is bitterness in Mr. Abdul Nabi's observations, and he admits he has shed his earlier illusions and naïveté through watching broadcast news aimed at the Western public. "The Middle East, Africa and its problems are

perceived as quaint and colourful. As far as we are concerned, the European public is very badly informed."

As a result of an enlarged view of world affairs, many feel the need to further the reach of Arab information — the other side, says Mr. Abdul Nabi — to give the West a more balanced view of events. "Until we have the capacity to send programmes that Western satellite dishes can receive, the world will remain a place where rich countries alone can be heard," concludes Mr. Abdul Nabi. "As long as the Western version of the truth has a monopoly, the so-called New Order is unlikely to be based on justice and human rights."

Language lessons going for a song in Tokyo

By Gareth Jones
Reuters

TOKYO — Want to learn a foreign language? Well, time to shut those tedious textbooks, cast off your inhibitions and reach for a microphone.

That, at least, is the advice of Hiroshi Kuroki, a pianist and voice trainer who teaches Japanese and English through the medium of Karaoke at a Tokyo language school.

"Karaoke is the quickest way to meet people in Japan because all kinds of Japanese — businessmen, teachers, housewives, even children — go to Karaoke," Mr. Kuroki said.

"Japanese people tend to be very bashful and conservative and foreigners often feel a kind of wall. But in a Karaoke bar, they really relax and open up to a foreigner — especially one who can sing in Japanese," he said.

The silver-haired Kuroki, a former jazz singer, said most foreigners living in Japan were too tired after a hectic day at the office to pore over complex grammatical rules and lists of vocabulary.

"Karaoke makes tireless practice a pleasure," he said in an interview at the Sanwa Music Academy where he teaches with the aid of a piano and Karaoke videos. Karaoke — "empty

orchestra" — consists of recorded pop tunes minus the vocals, allowing punters to sing along.

"It's easier to memorise words and structures in a song because the lyrics usually rely on repetition. Even people with an awful memory can remember them. It also helps give students good pronunciation and tone."

The method works equally well in teaching English or any other language, he said.

Mr. Kuroki, who as a voice trainer has taught many singers and actresses, said he taught himself English, French and some Portuguese mainly through songs.

The ability to communicate freely in a foreign language should take precedence over theoretical knowledge, he said.

"In Japan, students study English very hard in order to pass the highly competitive entrance exams for university."

"But they still can't tell a foreigner how to get to the station because they panic and are terrified about making grammatical mistakes." Students learn best when they can relax, he said.

His Japanese students of English particularly liked learning songs from famous movies. Mr. Kuroki said. Moon River, I Left My Heart In San Francisco, My Way and Beatles hits were firm favourites.

Although it first swept Japan 20 years ago, Karaoke has recently become one of Japan's most successful exports.

From London to Peking would-be Frank Sinatras have been flocking to Karaoke bars for a chance to belt out their favourite numbers. Even Stalinist North Korea boasts one.

"For the first time ever, Japan has exported its own, mass-market, cultural icon," said Britain's Economist magazine. "Karaoke is proof that in Japan there is life after work it is not all plotting to dominate world markets."

In Japan, where an estimated 2,800 new Karaoke outlets opened in 1990 alone, bar owners are investing in a whole new generation of atmosphere gimmicks and stage effects from artificial starlight to bubble baths.

In one Osaka bar, you can sing Raindrops Keep Fallin' On My Head under a sprinkler system — umbrellas are provided.

Mr. Kuroki said he hopes "educational Karaoke" will catch on as quickly. He conceded that gazing at a screen covered with Japanese script and pouring your heart into some syrupy ballad is not everyone's idea of study — or of fun.

"I don't actually like Karaoke myself and have only been twice in my life," he said with a chuckle. Written Japanese, a com-

plex mosaic of three different scripts, is one of the most difficult languages to read.

Before being able to tackle a newspaper, Japanese must commit to memory two syllabaries — Hiragana and Katakana, the latter reserved largely for words of foreign origin — and at least 2,000 Chinese characters (Kanji). Kanji commonly have three or more different readings.

Kuroki's students begin by reading and singing the Japanese tunes ready translated into the Western alphabet.

Hiragana is gradually introduced, and Kanji is strictly for the more advanced students. The Karaoke videos used by students consist of words only as Mr. Kuroki says the televised mini-stories that usually accompany a song would distract the students from the meaning.

"After about 10 lessons, a student will have a fairly good idea of Japanese grammar and should, with application, be able to read both Hiragana and Katakana."

One student, a Filipino housewife married to a Japanese, seemed happy with her progress.

"When I first went to a Karaoke bar with Japanese friends, I felt ashamed because I couldn't join in the singing. The more I can sing, the easier it will be to make friends."

In phone-rich U.S., dial for sex, sinners and medical advice

By Bernd Debusmann
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Want to find out about "women's shameless sins"? Need instant advice from a doctor or lawyer? Stock market quotations? Your horoscope? Earthquake forecasts? Jokes?

In the United States, with more telephones than any other country, a bewildering array of information and entertainment is becoming accessible through "pay-per-call" exchanges at prices that range from 50 cents to \$5 or more a minute.

Pay-per-call exchanges, also known as 900 numbers, are the latest business spawned by Alexander Graham Bell's 1876 invention of the telephone and some analysts of the communications industry say they have a bright future.

Growth has been steep: Revenues jumped more than 15-fold from \$60 million in 1988 to \$445 million in 1989, \$880 million in 1990 and \$975 million in 1991, according to Strategic Telemedia, a New York-based research and consulting firm.

"We predict revenues to rise to \$1.3 billion by 1993 and to \$1.8 billion by 1995," Telemedia's James Ivers said.

But for the moment, the budding industry is beset by teething pains, partly caused by the widespread — and erroneous — perception that most 900 numbers cater to callers in search of "shame-

less sins" and "sizzling sex." One of the early 900 numbers, now discontinued, featured no talk at all but a woman's moans of passion at various pitches of intensity for \$3 a minute.

But after a phenomenal spurt in phone sex lines in the late 1980s, industry analysts report, the "adult entertainment" share of 900 numbers has shrunk steadily and now stands at around three per cent of the total.

Federal regulations and a law sponsored by North Carolina Senator Jesse Helms, the arch-conservative Republican who sees himself as a protector of American virtue, combined to make life in the 900 lane difficult for the moan-and-groan crowd.

For providers of dirty talk, 900 numbers are convenient because charges for phone sex automatically appear on the caller's telephone bill. Under regulations that took effect last December, however, the companies can no longer cut off a subscriber's line for failing to pay 900 charges.

That makes it virtually impossible to collect money if the subscriber disputes charges.

The new rules followed a rash of complaints by parents whose children had run up thousands of dollars in 900 number charges. One case, still pending, involved a Tennessee teenager, Christopher Brown, who racked up a \$41,000 phone sex bill on his

mother's line. "The (phone sex) business has taken a very hard knock," said Nick Selby, a California lawyer who represents several adult entertainment providers. "Thousands have been driven out because there is no collection enforcement mechanism."

Others have switched to free 800 numbers. While the initial call is paid by the caller, callers are asked to provide credit card details and, in some cases, social security numbers.

Conversations with such numbers as 800-XXXX-Orge or 800-XXXX-Sex are billed to the customer's credit card. Such procedures appear to have cooled the ardour of Americans for long-distance sex.

"A lot of people out there don't have credit cards," said Mr. Selby, "and many of those who have won't like giving out their numbers to strangers."

Sex operators, according to industry analysts, are only one of the image problems plaguing the 900 business. The system also spawned a wide array of fraudulent schemes from bogus sweepstakes to phony credit card advice.

Tighter federal regulation and voluntary procedures announced last month by 46 state attorney generals are expected to drive away shady operators and attract more mainstream business users. According to the Washing-

ton-based Information Industry Association, newspapers make up a fast-growing segment of the 900 market: More than 400 now provide information through 900 numbers, up from 112 in 1989.

One of the earliest converts to the system was the Wall Street Journal, which charges 95 cents a minute for news, stock quotes and weather reports.

Less conventional uses of 900 numbers include 1-900-226-jolt, a California earthquake forecast service run by geologist Jim Berkand. Also based in California: A 900 advice line staffed by lawyers who answer questions at \$3 a minute.

Tom Kovachevich, a New York physician, runs 1-900-77-Doctor, a medical advice line which also charges \$3 a minute. The average call lasts five minutes, Dr. Kovachevich said.

In the long run, industry analysts say, pay-per-call lines with shoulder aside many of the 800 lines that cost an estimated annual \$7 billion to the companies and institutions which now provide them free to callers.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS), for example, has the most frequently called 800 number in the country and there are predictions that citizens who now get tax information free will eventually have to pay for it over a 900 line.

Organ transplants offer new life

By Philippa Neave

NEW YORK — A young man in a California hospital fights for his life after a serious motorcycle accident. He loses his battle, and a few minutes after he takes his last breath, doctors remove his healthy liver. An ambulance stands by and, sirens screaming, rushes the liver to the airport. Miles away on the other side of the country, surgeons prepare a woman on the operating table. The count-down has started. The medical team is on full alert and may operate throughout the night to transplant the organ to its new host.

Probably the most spectacular ever achieved in medical science, organ transplants offer new life to dying patients. Recent discoveries, particularly in the crucial field of organ preservation and transportation, hold out the promise of more and better transplants in the future. Since the first kidney was transplanted in the United States in 1954, doctors have already made dramatic strides in improving the success rate of operations and the variety of organs that can be transplanted. Last year, a total of 16,003 people received transplanted organs in the U.S. — 9,943 of the operations involved kidneys, 2,946 livers, 2,127 hearts, 535 pancreases, 400 lung and 52 both heart and lungs.

But for every donor who received an organ, others were left on the waiting list. More than 26,000 people are currently waiting for organs in the U.S. Here, as in most of the world, demand far outstrips supply. Every 20 minutes, a new name is added to the list, according to the United Network for Organ Sharing, (UNOS), a nation-wide registry coordinating patients, donors and hospitals which perform transplants. Close to seven people die each day in

the U.S. as they wait for organs, and that number is growing each year. Transplant operations have become more frequent and more successful, but the number of donors has failed to keep pace.

Helen Camp was one of the lucky patients whose tissue-type matched that of an available organ. A rare disease had slowly destroyed her kidneys and for years the 54-year-old New York college teacher was forced to go into hospital three or four times a week to be hooked up to a dialysis machine. The procedure took at least four hours, during which time the blood was drained from her body, circulated and cleaned by the machine.

"I was on the waiting list (for a kidney) for two years and had several stand-by alerts," she recalls. "Unless I got a transplant I would have been forced to go to the hospital for the rest of my life. Sometimes on the machine, I got cramps that were so painful, I couldn't even scream." Since her operation last August, Ms. Camp's life has changed completely. "The hope that I might one day receive a kidney is what kept me going. Now I can travel, work, do what I want. I was also on extremely restrictive diet for 10 years," she said. It took Ms. Camp a few weeks to get her strength back and recover from the operation. Now she is almost back to normal. "I can eat and drink what I like, it is so peculiar! Now I can go and visit my children and grandchildren when I want. This is such a miracle!"

The miracle does not come easy. The process of finding and matching an organ and a recipient is lengthy and complex and the costs are high. The average total cost of a kidney transplant is \$39,625, while the cost of a liver transplant is \$145,795, according to UNOS.

As scientific techniques have developed, the preservation and transportation of life-saving organs has remained a limiting factor. Now, new discoveries have given hope for improvements on the two main methods of live-organ handling. One major breakthrough came with the introduction of a preservation solution, which can be used with several organs. Invented by Dr. Folkert Belzer at the University of Wisconsin in 1984, and developed in recent years, the solution, called UW, dramatically lengthens the time organs can be preserved. Said Dr. James Southard, a specialist in organ preservation: "This solution has had a revolutionary effect on organ preservation. Before, we could only preserve livers for six to eight hours. Now we can keep them up to 24 hours." It is also a major advantage for heart preservation, added Dr. Southard, who works with Dr. Belzer. Of all the organs, the heart still has the shortest preservation time and the UW solution has doubled that time from four to eight hours.

Preservation of organs

Advances have also been made in the preservation of organs through a technique known as perfusion. Most organs are still preserved through cold storage, in an "igloo" cooler, much like the containers people use for picnics. Many problems are associated with cold storage, including damage to cells through swelling. Perfusion of the organ with a solution simulates blood circulation. A kidney can now be preserved for three days in cold storage and seven days with perfusion. This allows more time for tissue-typing and transportation, and means doctors no longer have to perform the transplant as an

emergency procedure.

There are other advantages, explains Dr. Southard. "Perfusion increases the number and quality of organs that are available. With kidneys, there is less need to dialyse the patient," he said. "Before, some 33 per cent of patients who received kidney transplants needed dialysis, and the UW solution has reduced that by 10 per cent." It costs about \$500 every time a patient has to be dialysed.

Kidneys are difficult to match, so every hour of increased preservation time counts. While livers are more fragile and difficult to perfuse, the effects of the solution have been very positive. Dr. Albert Knapp, a liver specialist consulting at Lenox Hill and Mount Sinai hospitals in New York explains: "The advantage is that you have a superb preservation of the liver and instead of performing the operation as an emergency procedure with rushes to the airport, police cars and working through the night, we can now schedule transplants with the regular crew of nurses, technicians and well-rested surgeons."

Also promising in the transportation and preservation area is the prospect of a new high-tech kidney perfusion machine known as the Live Organ Carrier Preservation System (LOCS). Developed by Trans-Med, a Texas-based corporation, and soon to be launched on the market, LOCS will feature an integrated computerised system capable of communicating critical up-to-the-minute details on the status of the organ being transported to the procurement coordinator and the surgeon. Said company director Sam McGhee: "Kidneys represent 86 per cent of the transplant market. The needs are very specific. So far there was only one machine on the market and it was designed 20

years ago. It's very archaic."

The LOCS machine will simulate the body's circulatory system while permanently monitoring the temperature, pressure, flow and other data. The lightweight instrument requires just one handler and is equipped with a satellite telecommunications system that can instantly alert a technician if a problem arises. It can also provide a complete printout of storage conditions to the receiving surgeon. "When a surgeon receives an organ, he wants to know what has happened over the past few hours, since the time it was retrieved," said Mr. McGhee, 39. "At the press of a button, he will have a full report as the machine scans the parameters every six minutes. All that information had to be collected manually every hour. Now you won't have to babysit the organ. An alarm will go off if the temperature rises or anything else goes wrong."

While the debate between the advantages of cold storage and perfusion still divides the medical community Mr. McGhee, who has worked with Dr. Belzer on developing LOCS, points to several new areas where the technology will improve the chances of keeping a kidney in good condition. "When a person dies, their system pumps massive amounts of adrenaline into the body," said McGhee. "This constricts all the blood vessels and organs. When an organ is retrieved, it is still constricted. If you perfuse a kidney, it opens up in four hours."

Rejection

One major hurdle with organ transplants is overcoming rejection by the recipient's body, which perceives the new body part as a foreign intruder. Recent advances in the development of immuno-suppressive drugs have gone some way to tackling the problem. The LOCS machine and similar systems may allow doctors to start treating the organ before it is transplanted. Said McGhee: "While the patient is being pre-treated, it will be possible, by introducing drugs to the perfusion solution, to treat the organ as well. Also, as technology progresses, surgeons have found that during the first eight to 10 hours of preservation time, the calcium in the organ becomes severely depleted. We can re-introduce calcium and feed the cells."

Mr. McGhee is currently working with IBM on a com-



Sam McGhee, director of Trans-Med, displays the Live Organ Carrier Preservation System (LOCS), developed by his company.

puter-based multi-media programme to train technicians in organ preservation. To date, there are only some 30 such professionals in the United States, and the company has already made contacts to market the system in Germany, Belgium, Italy and South Africa, where the training programme could be launched.

With close to 250 organ transplant centres in the U.S., the work of UNOS and similar organisations in other parts of the world — such as Amsterdam's Euro-Transplant which covers northern Europe — has become increasingly vital. UNOS operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and is responsible for assisting transplant centres with matching, transporting and sharing organs.

Since its creation in 1948, UNOS has had little chance to share organs with other

countries because the domestic demand is so high, says communications coordinator Mary Ann Wirtz. The same is true of most other nations, she says. However, UNOS is also involved in efforts to publicise the need for organs and encourage the public to carry organ donor cards.

One much-publicised case in the U.S. recently attracted the public's attention and highlighted some of the ethical issues raised by transplants. A Florida woman gave birth to a child with most of the brain missing. The baby had no chance to survive beyond a few days, so the couple decided to donate their child's organs. But the law blocked them from doing so. Said Ms. Wirtz: "The brain is constituted of three portions and all three have to be dead before anything can be removed from the body. The parents wanted this child

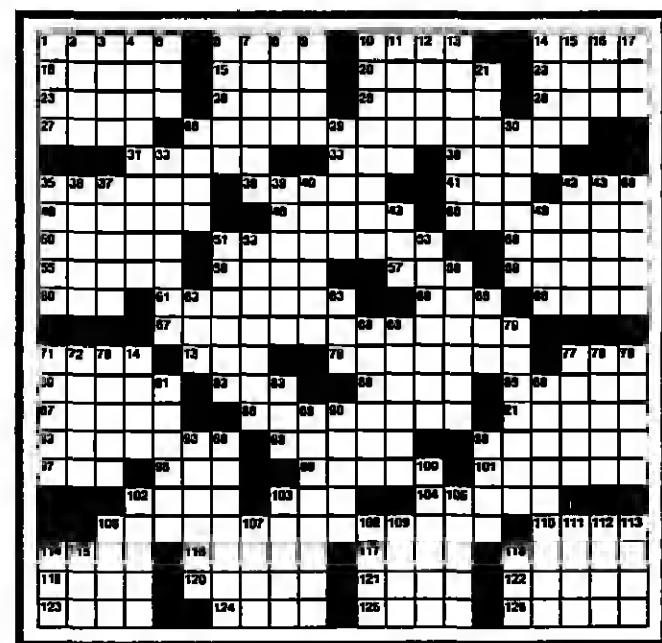
to be a donor, but the process would have killed it." When the child died nine days later, its organs had deteriorated too much to be usable.

New technology may improve efficiency, but it can do nothing to alleviate the dire shortage of organs. In parts of the developing world, this has spurred a boom in illegal organ trafficking, and there is a plentiful supply of live donors ready to sell a kidney or a lung for the right sum. "This is strictly prohibited in the U.S.," said Ms. Wirtz. "The World Health Organisation is currently addressing that problem. I hope other countries will establish principles, set up nationwide networks, coordinate efforts to reduce wastage, and get the organs to people who need them with no consideration of race, religion or who can afford to pay." — World News Link.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

DOUBLESPAKE
By Olive Dunn

- ACROSS**
1. Rascal villa
 6. Rhythmic scheme
 10. Spine
 14. Hurdle
 18. City liquid
 20. Extremities
 22. Seminal
 24. Bell
 26. Tolerant
 28. Unsettled
 30. Pity
 32. Trail
 34. Lure
 36. Lure
 38. Track of a wild animal
- DOWN**
1. Harriet
 3. Iner
 5. Not worn a
 7. Collection of anecdotes
 9. As if
 11. Ains
 13. Naïf
 15. Pining prels
 17. Nonsense var
 19. Scams
 21. Plant used in
 23. Error
 25. Lure
 27. Longing
 29. Concert
 31. Study
 33. Brooms



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Diamond salesman sells his bright gem to his new girlfriend. Lowlife!
2. A rolling stone gathers no moss, but it could become a very smooth one.
3. Roughhousing roughneck kids brought an end to their sandlot clubhouse.
4. Seen offscreen as a make-up, fusions film and rock star is not an adonis or apollo.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. TYONO EIO BREAO SPYUP UEA SLIM JLI
HOLERO SPL EIO NPYUM EAT NYIOT LJ
YN.
—By Barbara J. Bugg
2. ETPYARTY ETOPYTTER COQT XHTT FOX
JA AP UFT OBT CHUTE CEJAP EQUITE
BFEOUXHR.
—By Lois E. Jones
3. SHY SHINK SHOLD WEY CROWL INW
NYWEHOWZ HAZN UNHSWUI CNND CEKZ
RNHSWUI ZHKL.
—By Armitage Shaaka
4. UGH ASEXPTZ OTORXY, BTEJCNCA
ZCKEXSCON ZCQXP YC UO JOJUCN CZ.
AJQY AOY.
—By Eugene T. Malaska

- Diagramless 21 x 21, By James Barrick**
- ACROSS**
1. Chicago's airport
 3. Eatery
 5. Meaning of a land
 7. Operatic melody
 9. Most populated
 11. Troubles
 13. By way of
 15. Muscovite's
 17. Sharp
 19. Entertainment
 21. Bar bill
 23. High card
 25. Poker stake
 27. Means of
 29. Restaurant
 31. Love god
 33. First murderer
 35. Suburb of Paris
 37. Long river
 39. Extensive
 41. At no time
 43. To — Win
 45. Love
- DOWN**
1. Lure
 3. Lure
 5. Lure
 7. Lure
 9. Lure
 11. Lure
 13. Lure
 15. Lure
 17. Lure
 19. Lure
 21. Lure
 23. Lure
 25. Lure
 27. Lure
 29. Lure
 31. Lure
 33. Lure
 35. Lure
 37. Lure
 39. Lure
 41. Lure
 43. Lure
 45. Lure

Genetic defect linked to Parkinson's disease

By Randi Hutter Epstein

The Associated Press
LONDON — People with a genetic defect that damages the body's ability to destroy toxins are twice as likely to suffer from Parkinson's disease as people without the defect, a study suggests.

"The finding is an important step forward in identifying factors which influence an individual's susceptibility to Parkinson's disease," said study co-author Dr. P. Nigel Leigh, a professor of clinical neurology at the Institute of Psychiatry and King's College School of Medicine in London.

Dr. Donald R. Johns, assistant professor of neurology at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, said, "this is potentially significant. It may lead to a way to identify people at risk."

The study was published in the June 6 issue of the *Lancet*, a British medical journal. Doctors have long suspected some people may harbour genetic defects making them more vulnerable to Parkinson's disease, which is one of the three most common neurological disorders, striking about one per cent of the

population.

The disease depletes dopamine, a chemical produced in the brain that transmits signals in the nervous system. Victims tend to be older than 40. The disease produces tremours, muscle rigidity, slowness and instability.

Previous research suggested people suffering from Parkinson's disease cannot break down certain drugs or toxins. This study went a step further by exploring a gene that produces cytochrome P450, a toxin-fighting protein.

Investigators at the imperial cancer research fund in London, Edinburgh, and Birmingham examined the cytochrome P450 gene in 229 Parkinson's disease patients and 720 healthy people.

Dr. Leigh said 11.8 per cent of Parkinson's disease patients had genetic defects damaging their ability to eliminate toxins compared to five per cent of healthy people.

"There has been a long-standing debate that one of the reasons we might develop Parkinson's disease is that some of us may not be able to rid ourselves of potential tox-

ins either from the environment or from our own body," Dr. Leigh said.

"This study established beyond a doubt there is a genetic predisposition, at least in some people, afflicted with the disease."

The study does not suggest everyone with the defect will get Parkinson's disease. Rather, they may be more vulnerable to environmental factors, such as drugs or chemicals, that trigger Parkinson's.



The legendary Muhammad Ali who suffers from Parkinson disease developed his ailment from boxing

Jeffine 1250

From Sinai to the Gulf

(Continued from page 1)

treaty as the major turning point that practically reinforced the sharp regional imbalance created by the 1967 war.

But some Arab analysts argue that the 1967 defeat of Egypt under Nasser had led to Camp David.

"If it was not for the 1967 defeat it would have been very unlikely that Egypt would sign a unilateral treaty with Israel," says Dr. Mustafa Hamaneh, a history professor and head of the Jordan University Centre for Strategic Studies.

Egypt's most recognised philosopher, Dr. Mahmoud Amin Al Akm, says that it was a combination "of a historic coincidence, represented by the death of Nasser" and what he refers to as "political coups" from within the regime i.e. the rise of Sadat and subsequent Egyptian shift to the West, that turned the military defeat into a political and economic defeat.

"The 1967 war sparked a revolutionary wave in the Arab World," Dr. Akm says. "At first there was no sign of a break-up; that was evident in the emergence of the Palestinian resistance movement and the war of attrition (that followed on the Egyptian-Israeli borders). But the military defeat was transformed into a political defeat under the leadership of Nasser and Sadat's tilt to the West."

In Dr. Akm's view — shared by many in the Arab World — the 1967 war aimed not only at fulfilling Israeli expansionism but also at defeating the independent political line as well as hunting Arab economic development represented by Nasser's regime.

Consequently, many Arabs believe, the 1967 war placed the Arab World under stronger Western domination — a result that would continue to have a strong impact in the next two decades.

The destruction of Iraq's military prowess during the Gulf war in 1991 has effectively prevented a possible shift in the military and political balance imposed by the 1967 defeat and even tipped it further in favour of Israel.

But a respected Syrian military analyst, Al Haytham Ayoubi, argues that unlike the Gulf war the 1967 war had a chance of becoming a starting point for achieving Arab military parity with Israel was it not for Camp David.

"The 1967 war underscored for the first time the significance of endorsing the realisation of strategic parity with Israel as a crucial element in the Arab-Israeli conflict," Mr. Ayoubi said in an recent interview with the Jordan Times.

But the Camp David treaty and later the Iraqi defeat in the Gulf — the two events pushed the two strongest Arab countries out of the Arab-Israeli conflict — and finally the collapse of the Soviet Union rendered strategic parity almost impossible.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, who came to power in a military coup in 1970, was the staunchest advocate of achieving strategic parity with Israel until Syria joined the U.S.-led coalition against Iraq in the Gulf war and finally Moscow indicated that it no longer supported such an objective.

Mr. Ayoubi argued that the lack of adequate financial aid to the frontline states that impeded efforts to realise Arab strategic parity with Israel.

"Strategic parity needs money. But some Arabs are

stingy when it comes to spending money on such strategic issues," he charged in an implicit criticism of the policies pursued by the rich Arab states.

The absence of democracy in the Arab World, before and after the 1967 defeat, and lack of a minimum level of Arab unity are also often cited as factors that led to the defeat in the first place and prevented a genuine recovery over the last two decades.

In a column in the Al Rai daily, Jordan's leading columnist Tareq Masarweh wrote in an extremely bitter tone that the 1967 defeat was inevitable and so is the current disarray in and weakness of the Arab World as long as the Arabs are not united.

Prominent Jordanian novelist and former Arab Baathist Moones Al Razzaq charged that repression in the Arab World was the main culprit in the 1967 defeat and all the setbacks that followed.

"The gun-silencers are the culprit in the Arab defeat," Mr. Razzaq wrote in Al Dustour daily. "The Gun Silencer" is the title of one of Mr. Razzaq's best novels depicting the alienation and disillusionment of Arab intellectuals and pan-Arabists due to the repression practised by the supposedly revolutionary regimes in the Arab World. "The Gun Silencer" symbolises the repression and the actual threat of physical elimination which, in the novelist's view, suffocated the struggle for independence and democracy in the Arab World.

Even the revolutionary movements, mainly leftist-dominated groups which sprang and spread after 1967, failed to realise the importance of democracy to the struggle for independence and the liberation of Palestine.

"The war (in 1967) did not provoke activists to think about democracy, which was not an important element within the leftist thinking," Dr. Hamaneh observes. "Instead the left then endorsed a Stalinist-style revolutionary thought."

Most Arab intellectuals, politicians and activists were alerted to the centrality of democracy to boost the standing of the Arab World only after Iraq's defeat in 1991.

"This is another major difference between the implications of 1967 defeat and the 1991 defeat," Dr. Hamaneh says.

But in terms of subordination of the Arab World to Western domination, analysts find the Gulf war as extension of the 1967 defeat.

In general, the 1967 war and the main events of the last decades, particularly the collapse of the Soviet Union, have brought the Arabs to terms with dealing with the reality of the existence of Israel.

But Arab politicians note that this conciliatory shift in the Arab position has not been matched by any positive stand by Israel, which seeks to legitimise its occupation of the Arab lands it occupies and refuses to recognise Palestinian national rights.

"There is no doubt that the Arabs, particularly the Palestinians, have moved to a more pragmatic position while Israel is maintaining a very hardline stand seeking to maintain the status quo that resulted after the war," Dr. Barghouti notes. "Israel has still come to terms with another important result of the 1967 war. The emergence of an independent Palestinian nationalist movement that will not simply wither away."

Where poverty is privilege and wealth is liability

By Khaled Mahadeen

WHEN others try to murder us with their money and fall in their attempt, they are certain to try again to kill us with their disgrace; but when they do, they are certain to meet with a bigger failure.

We had thought that our poverty was something painful and we have rightfully tried to overcome this poverty with wealth that others do not possess. As the days passed by, our friends, brothers and enemies alike discovered, for us, something which we had never realised; that our poverty was indeed a privilege distinguishing us from others.

They had wanted us to be plagued by poverty and prayed poverty will not come to their doorsteps, but they were later shocked to find out that our poverty was a lucrative trade for us and that their own wealth was a losing trade.

We have lived through our poverty with dignity and pride while their wealth had deprived them of such a pride and they found that this wealth had transformed them into part of a nation which we deny them respect or the support which we enjoy.

Not a single child of ours died of hunger, but we watched parents of other children, who even though do not die of hunger, do not live either. These people had imagined that the more pressure they exercised on us the more we tremble with fear. But it turned out that the more the pressure on us the more we rise and feel proud and joyful and we look down with contempt on others and take pity on those who have lost their own minds, their vision and their sight and those who ended up on the side of the beautiful Arab path we are passing through while they point at

us with trembling fingers slandering us with an incoherent language as they cry out with a hoarse voice mingled with horror and disgrace.

No one must hold us accountable for his own disgrace and shameful act, as we never blame others for our glory.

We resent what they consider satisfactory for them and we do not want to embarrass them by inviting them to have what they do not wish to have. We have tried for a thousand times in the past to lure them to shoulder their national duty, but they failed us each time.

Something that characterises them — something which we can not afford to deny — is that every time they took a decision they had studied the matter carefully. Therefore, we believe that they turned their backs to the Arab Nation intentionally, hurrying to

the side of the enemy.

Indeed, they never failed in taking quick but accurate calculations. From the very instant of their political birth they have known where they belonged and who their swords should be drawn against and why they should always stick to this policy.

Our book is open before them and before us and theirs is also open; so we can read and they can read, and we know and they know that we rejoice while they sadden, we come out triumphant while they face defeat.

The enemies of the Arab Nation fail to blackmail us through pressure. These people face disgrace and humiliation at the hands of the Arab Nation's enemies even at the peak of an alliance and at the height of what could be a victory for them and for their allies.

land that extends from the Gulf to the Atlantic Ocean, should bear witness that some Arabs have imagined that this land has ceased to belong to the Arab Nation. This is the land of the Arabs — all of the Arabs — including the poor Arabs who possess everything and the rich who have nothing.

The Arab Nation can have no alliance except with itself and can not triumph except over something genuinely belonging to it. Any other alliance can only face defeat and disgrace and can only be condemned.

This beautiful desert land has belonged to the poets and the

cavaliers, and the prophets who came before them, before it was turned over to the "petrol stations" through the conspiracy of the enemies who reshaped the Arab region's map, and those who orchestrated an alliance against Mohammad of Mecca.

At present, as since the times of Sharif Hussein of Mecca, and tomorrow, only the honest Arabs can see that the Arab World is one nation, without these petrol stations, and free of the black flags.

The above article appeared in Arabic in Al Rai newspaper last week.

Egyptian crime tabloid rocks stodgy Arab press

By John West
Reuters

CAIRO — Egypt's first tabloid newspaper is selling like hot cakes, challenging stodgy rivals with lurid headlines, gossip and spicy tales of crime and love.

Two months after starting production, the weekly Akhbar Al Hawadeth — action news — is selling 800,000 copies and closing on Al Ahran, established pillar of Egyptian journalism with a daily circulation of about one million.

Intellectuals sniff at the weekly tabloid, dismissing its almost exclusive diet of crime stories from Egypt and around the world as sensational, trivial and inaccurate.

A recent edition told of a beautiful young woman who spent two years scouring the country for her fiancé, who disappeared just days before their wedding. There was also the tale about a lorry driver from Upper Egypt stricken with remorse because he ran over his best friend by mistake.

One of its stories prompted a man to ring in and confess to murdering his sister.

Deputy Editor Mahmoud Salah says the action news formula is a winner. Editions are often sold out within hours of reaching the newsstands.

Big colour photographs backed up by punchy stories have fired the imagination of Cairo's residents, in sharp contrast to the

dull, official tone that dominates most of the Egyptian and Arab World's press.

"Do they think everyone who reads our 800,000 copies is stupid or superficial?" Mr. Salah asked. "This paper... will affect the whole Arab World."

Although brush by Egyptian standards, action news is almost prudish compared to its western counterparts. It is careful not to offend Muslim sentiment in a socially-conservative country.

A photograph accompanying a gossip story about the state of the Princess of Wales' marriage conformed to the dictates of Islam —

she was shown in a long-sleeved pullover and jeans.

There are no pin-ups. Any stories hinting at sex written in flowery, poetic language.

"We do cover sex but we don't have to go into details like your tabloids," said Mr. Salah.

He says the newspaper is aimed mainly at women and young people.

"Readers want crimes and accidents, the human touch, not these articles that go on," said Adel Al Antahli, a newspaper vendor in downtown Cairo. "The first thing people do when they get a newspaper is turn to the

crime pages anyway."

The stream of crime stories paint a dark picture of a world in which ordinary folk struggle against forces beyond their control — poverty, deception and random violence.

The progress of the newspaper comes as the government is mounting a drive against rising crime. It plans regular armed patrols involving 800 police officers in Cairo and the port of Alexandria. It has also ordered the introduction of women-only buses, following a tradition of women-only coaches on the Cairo metro.

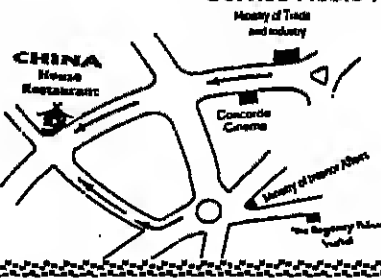
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Iran hangs four rioters

(Continued from page 1)

parliament, broadcast on Tehran Radio.

A spokesman for the Iraq-based opposition Mujahadeen-e-Khalq group said police had rounded up 3,000 of its sympathisers in Mashhad, a city of two million people, since the riots.

The group last week appealed to the United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to inter-

vene and stop what it termed a planned mass execution of its sympathisers.

The Mujahadeen said the four hanged Wednesday brought the total number executed to 24.

The government said Monday that an unspecified number who took part in demonstrations in Arak and Shiraz a few weeks before the Mashad incident began May 30 had been sentenced and the sentences carried out.

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Russia studies implementation of Western accounting methods

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's accountants are lifting the veil they have kept over the country's economic performance, adopting Western methods and abandoning the secrecy of the past.

A 76-page document, under discussion by the Russian Parliament, sets out a detailed timetable on how to change the way Russia's 30,000 statisticians work.

"In the past there were a lot of secrets," Anton Inoyatov, head of the Department of Methodology at Russia's State Statistics Office told Reuters in an interview.

"The whole way we used to count the national economy was a child of the Soviet system," he pointed out.

The old Soviet system, geared to plans and central control rather than to supply and demand, frequently mismanaged economic figures. Company managers regularly inflated production data to show that they had met or exceeded state targets.

Inflation and unemployment did not officially exist. Price rises were disguised. Rather than acknowledge that the price of an item had risen, the authorities would reclassify it as a new and different product.

Cheaper, old goods disappeared from the shops, but inflation was theoretically zero.

Officials say several different figures were often available on a single topic.

"There used to be three levels of statistics," a central bank official said earlier this year. "One level was for public consumption, a second level for officials like me and a third level was so secret that even I did not know what it said."

Mr. Inoyatov agreed that statistics released in the past had ignored huge topics like the performance of the Soviet Union's vast military complex. Figures on subjects such as infant mortality were closely guarded secrets.

He said the new plan, which parliament is likely to approve this month, aimed to bring all Russian statistics up to Western standards by 1997. But the way Russia calculates some data will change well before the final deadline.

Mr. Inoyatov said a basket of consumer goods was already being created to form a meaningful basis for price comparisons.

Gross national product figures, which measure the size of the country's economy, already met the requirements of international financial organisations.

"Before, we could only answer about 30 or 40 per cent of the questions put to us by international organisations," he said.

"Now the figure is 50 or 60 per cent and on some questionnaires we can give full answers on every topic."

He said problems facing the country were exacerbated by its vast size — at 17 million square kilometres Russia is by far the biggest country in the world — and by the need to reeducate accountants and statisticians.

"We have three million accountants in Russia and all of them have to be retrained," he said.

The plan, the state programme for Russian Federation's transition to international practices in the system of accounting and statistics, has two stages.

In the first stage, which has already started, Russia will create a new system of indices to measure economic performance.

In the second stage, due between this year and 1997, the country will put these new indices into practice, allowing its figures to meet international statistical norms.

Russia is receiving practical advice from Germany's Federal Statistics Office, taking advantage of Germany's experience in revising data from the eastern half of the recently reunited country to meet Western standards.

But Mr. Inoyatov said it would take time before Russia's new statistics system was fully operational.

"Even in Germany they have been trying to produce the new data for two years and they have not succeeded yet," he said. "I do not believe we can set complete targets for everything we have to do here."

Negotiators near accord on Earth Summit funding

OPEC pledges to resist carbon tax at all costs

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Oil producers delivered a counterblast to the West at the Earth Summit Tuesday, attacking European Community (EC) proposals for a carbon tax to cut fossil fuel consumption and threatening OPEC retaliation if it went ahead.

OPEC Secretary-General Subroto urged delegates in a speech to wait for proper scientific evidence before taking decisions that could hurt crude exporters and said all environmental measures should be compatible with continued economic growth.

Third World oil producers have been alarmed by some of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development's proposals on cutting air pollution. Saudi Arabia has been pressing for summit documents to tone down references to the environmental consequences of burning fossil fuels.

"The clearly perceptible focusing of international attention — and suspicion — on fossil fuels in general, and CO2 emissions in particular, naturally has us worried," Mr. Subroto said.

A carbon tax, such as the one proposed by the EC's executive commission, would hurt oil exporters and fail to achieve its objectives because companies would transfer energy-intensive activities to the Third World, he added.

"It is frankly difficult to avoid the conclusion that the true aim of the proposed measures is not, as claimed by their authors, to meaningfully reduce CO2 emission in a rational manner, but to provide a smokescreen to cover an attack on oil, especially OPEC oil," Mr. Subroto said.

Were Western nations to press ahead with the tax, he added, OPEC would not stand idly by.

"OPEC would seriously have to reconsider committing scarce financial resources to increasing and maintaining oil production capacity in order to meet the future increases projected in world oil demand," Mr. Subroto said.

"In this instance we would have no option but to defend ourselves, our industry and our nations' livelihood with all the resources at our command," he pointed out.

Mr. Subroto did not elaborate, adding only that consumer countries should think twice about the possible consequences before "exploiting environmental fears to add to the already punitive high tax on oil."

OPEC, he said, was entitled to expect a fair and balanced approach from other states in talks about how burning fossil fuels might change the world's climate.



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Mr. Subroto's optimism was echoed by a member of the U.S. delegation, who came out of the talks saying he was much more optimistic that agreement could be reached than Monday.

Neither was prepared to comment in detail on the discussions, but delegates from Egypt and Poland said the main sticking point — a demand by Third World nations that the industrialised world promise to reach a U.N. target of giving 0.7 per cent of gross national product in aid by the year 2000 — was likely to be referred to ministers for a decision later in the week.

No final wording had been reached, but negotiators were considering offering the ministers three formulas, delegates said. One would be to reach the aid target by 2000, a second by 2000 if possible, and the third by 2000 or later.

The United States does not accept the 0.7 per cent goal and several European nations that do have refused to commit themselves to a firm target date.

Delegates said they viewed favourably a standard Brazilian compromise paragraph that could be inserted into all the 150-plus parts of other summit texts where money was mentioned.

The paragraph avoids committing rich nations to any specific sums of money, saying that the U.N.'s cost figures for each of its so-called Agenda 21 programmes are indicative estimates only and that actual costs will depend on what government agree to.

Some diplomats also noted that finance talks had been complicated by the fact an agreed text is needed by Thursday to meet the conference timetable but many pledges of money are unlikely to come until world leaders arrive for the summit's weekend finale.

Sales of U.S.-made snacks booming overseas

WASHINGTON (AP) — America's between-meal eating habits are catching on abroad as the U.S. snack food industry pursues a booming overseas business in candy, salted peanuts and corn chips.

Sweets seem to be the world's favourite snack. Since 1986, U.S. exports of candy, cakes and cookies grew nearly fourfold, from \$116 million to \$454 million in 1991, according to the June issue of the Agriculture Department's Agexporter magazine.

International tastes for potato chips, pretzels, peanuts and popcorn also are growing rapidly. The \$20.4 million spent on such treats in the last quarter of 1991 is a 23 per cent increase over the same months a year earlier, said the magazine.

Foreign agricultural service analysts predict that snack food is catching on so fast worldwide that it could be a billion-dollar export industry for the United States by mid-decade.

Canada is the best customer, followed by Mexico, Japan and South Korea.

Mexican economy soars

MEXICO CITY (R) — As the United States and other industrialised nations search their crystal balls and economic indicators for signs they are emerging from recession, Mexico is roaring exuberantly ahead.

Mexico's gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 4.2 per cent in the first quarter of 1992 in the strongest start of any year in a decade, the finance ministry has said.

Growth was fuelled at least in part by a 4.7 per cent increase in the services sector and a 9.5 per cent surge in transportation and communications.

The growth not only flew in the face of continued sluggishness in the economy of the United States, Mexico's biggest trading partner, but also appeared to contradict the views of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

Mr. Salinas said last month that the economy was expected to grow by three per cent in 1992.

But in a recent speech, he struck a more upbeat tone.

"The stagnation of the U.S. economy has meant, with a certain time delay, an effect on the Mexican economy," he said.

"Nevertheless, our growth continues solidly and at the foreseen rhythm."

The surge in growth surprised some analysts.

"I must say I am a little surprised, I would have been expecting something more like three per cent," said one Western diplomat.

He added that rapid growth, taken with a soaring trade deficit

of \$3.99 billion in the first three months of 1992 compared to \$1.76 billion in the first quarter of 1991, might fan fears that the economy was in danger of overheating.

"Perhaps if you take the two figures together (trade deficit and GDP) some would say there might be a little overheating, but it's really too early to tell," he said.

The finance ministry said industry expanded by 3.5 per cent while construction grew by 4.9 per cent and mining by 4.2 per cent. Industries that registered the strongest growth included cars, appliances and clothing.

The finance ministry figures gave year-on-year data stating how much higher GDP was in the first quarter of 1992 than in the first quarter of 1991 after adjustment for inflation. In 1991 GDP was \$284 billion, according to the Bank of Mexico.

Coca-Cola to invest nearly \$1b in eastern, central Europe

ATLANTA (R) — The Coca-Cola Co. said plans to invest nearly \$1 billion to expand business in eastern and central Europe through the end of 1995 with more than \$200 million targeted for Poland.

The announcement by the world's largest soft drink company came as it opened a \$30 million plant, employing 200 workers in Gdynia, Poland. It plans to open another Polish plant this month.

"From 1992 through the end of 1995, the Coca-Cola Co. and its bottling partners plan to invest close to \$1 billion in capital in central and eastern Europe. Well over \$200 million will be dedicated to Poland," the Atlanta-based firm said in a statement.

Coca-Cola, which already makes nearly 80 per cent of its profits outside the United States, previously said it would increase worldwide capital spending for expansion to \$1.3 billion in 1992 from \$791 million last year.

Coke's biggest investment is targeted for eastern Germany, where the company previously detailed multi-year plans to spend \$450 million.

Other countries covered by the announcement include Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Russia, the Ukraine, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Albania and the Baltic republics of Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia.

The announcement signalled a stepped-up battle for dominance in the fledgling market for soft drinks.

Coke's archrival, Pepsi-Cola, had a head start in offering soft drinks in several of eastern European countries, but the market under communist rule was minuscule.

Pepsi, whose sales outside the United States lag behind Coke's by four to one, also announced plans to expand business in selected eastern European countries. Both firms hope to profit from economic liberalisation in the former communist nations.

"This new plant is a symbol of the long term commitment we have made to our customers and consumers in Poland," Coca-Cola President Donald Keough said at ceremonies opening the Gdynia plant.

The plant will be wholly owned by Coca-Cola and will meet soft drink demand from Poland's northern coast with an annual capacity of 10 million cases when it is fully operational.

This month Coke will open a new plant in Bydgoszcz, Poland, which will be a joint venture involving Norwegian bottler Ringnes and the Polish Puberz group.

Coke estimates \$93 million will be invested in Poland during 1992. Other projects include a bottling and distribution centre in Warsaw.

Kenyan economy freezes while politics boil

NAIROBI (R) — Drought at home and recession in the West halved economic growth in Kenya last year and a further fall is expected when the country enters the era of multi-party politics.

Official figures have confirmed fears of Western diplomats worried that one of Africa's most robust economies is now on ice at the same time that its politics are near boiling point.

The government's annual survey showed that growth of real gross domestic product (GDP), adjusted for inflation, slowed to 2.2 per cent from 4.3 per cent in 1990 and five per cent the previous year.

It was the lowest growth rate since a regional drought of 1984 which slashed Kenya's economic expansion to a dismal 0.9 per cent.

"The expected trends indicate a depressed state of the economy and we expect the growth rate of real GDP to remain low at around two per cent in 1992,"

Planning and National Development Minister Zachary Onyango said in a statement.

He blamed recession in the West, which cut receipts from Kenya's main foreign exchange earner, tourism and one of the worst droughts on record, which slowed real growth in its agricultural backbone to a negative 1.1 per cent.

Kenya's tourism image also suffered a serious setback in 1988 with the murder of British tourist Julie Ward.

A spate of attacks on tourists has prompted some Western countries to counsel their nationals to stay away from the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

A growth rate of less than four per cent means Kenya is failing to keep pace with its annual population growth rate, one of the world's highest, and that there has been no increase in living standards.

The figures added up to grim reading for President Daniel Arap Moi, who bowed to domestic and international pressure last December and announced that he would allow multi-party elections for the first time in 26 years.

The figures showed inflation measured by consumer prices increased from 15.8 per cent in 1990 to 19.6 per cent in 1991.

"As a result, and even though wage earners benefited through increases, real average earnings fell in 1991 while most interest rates were negative in real terms," the survey said.

A recent survey by the mass circulation Nation newspaper showed that about three quarters of those polled believed corruption and eroding standards of living were the priorities any new government should tackle.

Since opening the door to multi-party democracy, Mr. Moi has accused the opposition of inciting the worst tribal bloodshed since independence in 1963 in which at least 130 people have been killed.

The opposition, in a daily exchange of counter allegations in the lively local media, has accused Moi of stirring up the fighting to justify declaring a state of emergency and calling off the dogs, for which no date has been set.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and billions markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.8290/300	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1932/37	Canadian dollar	
	1.5955/65	Deutschemark	
	1.7995/8005	Dutch guilders	
	1.4570/80	Swiss francs	
	32.84/88	Belgian francs	
	5.3775/425	French francs	
	1208/1209	Italian lire	
	127.52/62	Japanese yen	
	5.7600/50	Swedish crowns	
	6.2370/420	Norwegian crowns	
	6.1520/70	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	\$337.83/338.35		

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Futures-linked programme selling led the Nikkei Index 102.17 points lower to 17,742.87.

SYDNEY — Falls in overseas markets and weakness in the banking sector sent the All Ordinaries Index 5.7 points lower to 1,665.8.

HONG KONG — Share prices ended lower after profit-taking emerged to erase earlier gains. The Hang Seng Index finished 22.69 down at 5,917.50.

SINGAPORE — Share prices finished higher across the board led by strong Blue Chip gains. The STI rose 19.30 points to close at 1,511.41.

BOMBAY — Share prices retreated to end mixed after an early rally on the last day of the current two-week account. The Bombay Stock Exchange Index fell to 3,140.80, down 13.43 points.

FRANKFURT — Rebounding from early weakness after hitting a key resistance level, German shares shook off declining price in Wall Street and Tokyo. The Dax closed at 1,789.76, up 3.50.

ZURICH — Shares ended a quiet day lower as the market lacked stimuli and some investors took profits. The SPI Index eased 6.2 points to 1,199.0.

PARIS — French share prices slipped back in tandem with Wall Street to close lower but the CAC-40 index of leading shares held above the key 1,950 level. The index closed 8.50 points lower at 1,953.73.

LONDON — Shares closed barely changed, shedding early gains in line with futures and weakness on Wall Street. The FTSE 100 Index recovered from an early mark-down and reached a peak of 2,647.0 before ending 0.7 points up at 2,636.1.

NEW YORK — Investors remained unenthusiastic ahead of May indicators due Thursday. The Dow was down 9.08 at 3,360.84 at 1633 GMT.

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